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HISTORY OF THE OHIO
BRANCH
OF THE
WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE
EVANGELICAL CHURCH





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Please return to
Elmira E. Raneck,



MRS. E. M. SPRENG

Author of the historic petition to the Board of
Missions and outstanding leader of the Woman's
Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association.

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History of the Ohio Branch

of the

*WOMAN'S MISSIONARY
SOCIETY*

of the

Evangelical Church

Edited by

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||

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Woman's Missionary Society

"For Christ's Sake and the Gospel's."

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FOREWORD

A BRIEF historic perspective on the emergence of women into missionary activity, reveals the significant fact, that throughout Christendom, in the beginning of the 19th century, groups of women were found praying earnestly for and contributing from their meager incomes to definite missionary work. They manifested a remarkable, far-seeing faith—prevailing prayer—extreme self denial. Missions held a tremendous appeal for these women.

“But with what consternation and misgivings the men of the church in those early days watched the doings of these devoted women. Turning in desperation to his elders, one Michigan pastor implored them to see to it, that an elder be designated to attend each meeting, lest the women be indiscreet enough to offer voluntary prayer! A Board Secretary is on record as having said to his associates, “I cannot recommend bringing the women into this work.” But as always in the beginning of big movements, there was a small minority of courageous, large visioned, broad-minded, understanding souls of which the Evangelical Church had her quota, who staunchly maintained in the face of other men, “The help of pious females must not be spurned.”

“A certain pastor had a caller who stayed too long and at length the uneasy host interrupted him, saying, “You really must excuse me. It is almost three o’clock, and the women of my church are going to hold a missionary meeting, and there’s no telling what they’ll be asking the Lord for, if I am not there to see to them.” The brother, to whom this incident was related, laughed heartily, but after a moment said with intense seriousness, “Yes, and there’s no telling but what the Lord will give them what they are asking for, for that is the kind of a person our God is.” And how they did ask, and how God has given.”*

The difficulties these women encountered, only strengthened their ardor and zeal. It is hard for us in these days when women are eligible to enter any walk of life they choose, to realize the courage required by them fifty years ago to organize and maintain a Society of their own. Nothing but the realiza-

*From an address at a missionary convention by Mrs. John Hobson.

tion that it was God's will, would have enabled them to persevere in the face of opposition and ridicule and their own inexperience. At that time, women were not accustomed to assume leadership, to act on their own initiative, nor trained in public speaking. They were busy wives and mothers, their housework not lightened with the labor saving devices of the present day; travel was slow and difficult; there were no telephones, no trolley cars; their funds were collected with much sacrifice; eggs and butter sold for a pittance, wages were very small, ministers' salaries were extremely low; but their stock of faith in God and love for the lost ones never failed. Guided by Him, they learned business methods, they planned their programs, they found time to attend meetings, they gave what they had, they trained their children. God bless our mothers!

At the request of the Executive Committee, this glimpse into the beginning and history of our Branch has been prepared. Grateful acknowledgment is due many present and past officers for their invaluable assistance, the pastors and presidents of the Auxiliaries over Ohio, Rev. R. B. Leedy, Conference Historian, Rev. J. W. Heininger, Mrs. Hulda Mathias, Mrs. W. L. Naumann, Mrs. W. H. Munk, Mrs. C. E. Lamale, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Miss Estella Schultz, Rev. George Epp and Dr. B. H. Niebel, Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, Mrs. Ella J. Yost-Preyer, Mrs. F. G. Stauffer, Mrs. A. D. Weist, and the relatives of our missionaries. We also wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to "Her Story," written by Mrs. H. Bennett, and "Reminiscences," written by Estella Hartzler-Steinmetz.

We would not forget the kindness of Mrs. Roy Deininger of Cleveland, in designing the attractive cover for this book, and especially wish to acknowledge the continual helpfulness of our president, Mrs. John Hobson.

With the prayer that this little volume will enable all of our Evangelical women of Ohio to realize how precious is their heritage, we send it forth. As you ponder the struggles and victories of your sisters in the days gone by, may you resolve more earnestly than ever, to "carry on" with God's help, that which has been committed unto you.

The Authors.

PART ONE



OUR EMBLEM

*Lily of fragrance,
With beauty replete,
Emblem of all that
Is holy and sweet.
Dwelling so lowly,
So close where we tread,
Cheerily lifting your
Dear, dainty head,
Telling us all of
The great Father's care,
Of the one who clothes
Even the lilies so fair.
Thus humbly and quietly
Doing God's will,
Our Society's mission
Is to fulfill
All the glad message
That from Christ's lips fell
To the women who loved Him,
"Go quickly and tell."*

—Mrs. H. Bennett.

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Ps. 126: 6.

CHAPTER I.

1878—1890

The Sowers

OHIO has been called "Mother of Presidents." It has also been the privilege of our noble state to become the birthplace of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association.

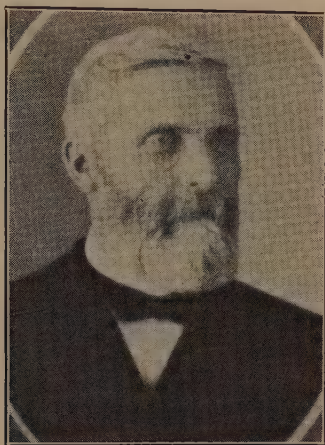
The latent desire in the hearts of the Evangelical women to have a special part in the missionary work of the church was deeply stirred by the sending forth into Japan of the first foreign missionaries of the Evangelical Association in 1875. The party consisted of Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Kreyer of East Pennsylvania, Rev. A. Halmhuber, of Germany, and Miss Rachel Hudson. It is significant that it was in the hearts of two young women in Ohio that this desire first bore fruit. Miss Ellen J. Yost, later Mrs. Ellen J. Yost-Preyer, daughter of Rev. William Yost, himself a great missionary enthusiast, aroused a group of women in the Calvary Church in Cleveland with the idea of a woman's organization as early as 1878. But their request sent to the Board of Missions was refused on the ground that it was unnecessary. We will let Mrs. Preyer tell the story in her own words:

"Miss Rachel Hudson, one of the group with Dr. Frederick Kreyer's family, the first missionaries to Japan, was a guest in my father's home when the group was in Cleveland, on its way to the Pacific Coast for Japan. When Miss Hudson got to Japan, she wrote to me regularly and subscribed for the missionary magazine, "Life and Light" for me. She urged me to try to do something towards organizing the women, making school and work among children in Japan a specialty. I still have some of those letters. I became very much impressed and wished more than anything else to go to Japan as a mission-

ary, but I knew my imperfect hearing would be too serious a handicap. So I talked a woman's organization to my father, received his advice and encouragement and wrote the "Call" to the women of the church for publication in the Evangelical Messenger. That was the beginning. Dr. H. B. Hartzler, the editor, before publishing the "Call," asked me to come to the editorial rooms to get my view-point. He followed the "Call" with a strong endorsement, and ever after gave the movement most hearty support. That "Call" created a stir. Letters began to come to me, the first one from Mrs. H. C. Smith of Naperville, Ill., mother of your fine Mrs. Naumann. These letters showed the women had been thinking, their hearts were prepared, but my! they threw me into a panic (almost). I was in the early twenties, I felt so ignorant, and insufficient; however, I had plenty of enthusiasm. But believe me, I received a shock and a rude awakening when I found a number of the official brethren of the parent missionary society did not look with favor upon a woman's organization, with its extra gifts. I was so sure it was the thing to do it was inconceivable (to me) that anyone should hold back and we had to go oh, so slowly. However, the Lord's hand was in it. He approved, and behold the accomplishments."

The "Call" referred to by Mrs. Preyer, published in the Evangelical Messenger May 23, 1878, was indeed a strong appeal to the women of our church. Among other things she wrote: "Is there any reason why a Woman's Missionary Society should not be formed in our church? If there be any, we should like to hear of it. Our General Missionary Society is in debt; this cripples its efforts to some extent. Would not such a society relieve it; would it not help to bear the responsibility; would it not be of assistance in spreading the religion of Christ? Is there a single woman in the church whose sympathies cannot be enlisted in this cause?"

"Will we, can we not do something? Perhaps some one will say, "Oh, you have a Woman's Missionary Society on your brain!" Very good! If we all have it on our brains, we will soon have it on our hearts; and then it is very probable that something will be accomplished. Would to God that all, young and old, might be set on fire with enthusiasm, with earnestness and zeal for this good work."



REV. E. WENGERD

Pastor at Lindsey when the first W. M. S. was organized—under the supervision of Minerva Strawman Spreng, he wrote the historic petition to the Board of Missions.



MRS. L. NAUMANN

President of First W. M. S.
organized at Lindsey in 1880

In the meantime, God was preparing the heart of another Ohio young woman, Miss Minerva Strawman of Lindsey, a little town among the trees of Sandusky County, to be the one who should launch a successful campaign to open the way for women's work. The story of the beginning of the Lindsey organization reads like a fairytale:

While attending the academy in Fostoria, Miss Strawman was invited one day by Mrs. G. P. Macklin, the Preceptress, to attend a missionary tea, given by the Woman's Missionary Society of the United Brethren in Christ. She was delighted with all she saw and heard, and went back to her father's home in Lindsey with the question ringing through her soul, "Why cannot we women of Lindsey Church have such an organization?" Like Mrs. Preyer, she consulted with her father, Rev. D. Strawman, at that time a member of the Board of Missions. As she came to him with this great question, he said, "Why, Minerva, in order to organize a society you will have to send a petition to the Board of Missions." She was simply planning for a little society in their own home church. The idea of an inexperienced girl, sending a petition to that august Board had rather a chilling effect on our young enthusiast. But, unabashed, she secured the help of her pastor, Rev. E. Wengerd, who, with some assistance from Rev. George Schneider under her supervision, wrote the historic petition to the Board of Missions.

Miss Strawman also sent out a message to the women of the church through the columns of the Evangelical Messenger of September 14, 1880. We quote from this article:

"Our General Missionary Society is doing a grand and noble work, but it is in debt and that cripples its efforts to some extent, and we feel it our duty in some way to help relieve it and to aid in prosecuting the glorious work which the Society began." In another article she says:

"Our purpose would be, first: to unite the efforts of the women to raise funds for the support of heathen missions. To get women and children interested in the missionary cause so that the funds collected may be given in the right spirit and with a willing mind;

Second: To unite the earnest prayers of the women of our Association in behalf of the missionary cause;

Third: To make it an object to visit the sick;

Fourth: To speak to the unconverted."

She closed by saying, "And now, dear sisters, a wide field for doing good opens before us. Let us bestir ourselves, unite our efforts, and rally around the cross. When you have read this, do not lay it aside, and say, 'It is a good work, I hope the sisters will take it up,' but go to work yourselves."

The Board of Missions, in October, 1880, granted the request to organize a Woman's Missionary Society. On October 27, 1880, in the afternoon, the women of the Lindsey church met at the home of Mrs. L. Naumann and proceeded to organize the first Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association. Mrs. L. Naumann was elected President, Mrs. E. S. Brenneman, Vice-President, Miss Minerva Strawman (whom we know better as Mrs. E. M. Spreng), Secretary, Miss Louise Naumann, Assistant Secretary, and Mrs. B. Walters, Treasurer. There were 37 Charter Members, as follows: Mrs. L. Naumann, Mrs. E. S. Brenneman, Miss Minerva Strawman, Miss Louise Naumann, Mrs. B. Walters, Mrs. J. Siefert, Mrs. William Naumann, Mrs. William Ecki, Mrs. D. Strawman, Mrs. Henrietta Lamale, Miss Crissie Strawman, Mary Reinhold Munk, Mrs. Mary Gauer, Mrs. John Atkinson, Miss Sophia Walters, Anna Overmeyer, Mrs. Rev. Munk, Mrs. Tillie Klotz, Mrs. Sol Overmeyer, Mrs. S. Burkett, Mrs. D. Davis, Mrs. L. Blocker, Mrs. Cinnie Young, Mahala Overmeyer, Catherine Eversole, Mrs. Zay, Mrs. Mary Boyer, Mrs. Henry, Mrs. Sarah Pfeiffer, Mrs. E. Wengerd, Mrs. George Overmeyer, Mrs. Joel Burkett, Mrs. Margaret Houser, Mrs. Catherine Hess, Susanna Walters, Mrs. Minnie Burkett, Mrs. Rev. Berger.

"In speaking of those early days, among other things Mrs. L. Naumann, says: At our first convention, it was decided to have a missionary paper published. The price was 25 cents per year and it was called the Missionary Messenger. Lindsey had forty-nine subscribers. My little boys had great pleasure in delivering these papers."

The Cleveland women, in the meantime, had not relinquished their purpose, but had continued to pray, and work and collect funds for the missionary cause. So it was, that on February 9, 1881, our second Ohio Society came into existence, in Calvary Church, Cleveland. Mrs. W. H. Hammer was elected



MRS. W. H. HAMMER

First Corresponding Secretary
and indefatigable Promoter of the W. M. S.
from its inception to the present day. President
1895-1899.



MRS. E. J. Y. PREYER

As early as 1878 a champion for the Woman's
Missionary Society and first president of the
General W. M. S.

Corresponding Secretary of this society, and very soon after its organization began to put forth every effort to effect a general organization of the Woman's Missionary Society. We are fortunate to have preserved for us one of the original letters sent out by Mrs. Hammer early in 1883, addressed to Mrs. Lewis Harpster, the first president of the then newly organized Flat Rock Society. It reads:

Cleveland, Ohio,
March 21, 1883.

"Dear Sister:

The Annual Meeting of our Woman's Missionary Society will be held on the 3rd of June. The interest in the cause of Woman's Missionary Societies is decidedly on the increase every where. For this, as well as other reasons, we have concluded to ask each Society to send a representative to attend our June Meeting, and while together we can plan for more extended work for the future. Several have suggested a gathering of this kind and we thought it was best not to wait any longer.

"Each delegate is expected to come prepared to give a short report of the Society she represents, also an expression of the Society as regards a General Organization. By this is meant, a uniting of all societies into one organization, governed by a Woman's Board of Managers, not independent of the Parent Missionary Society, but auxiliary to that, and acting under the advice and supervision of the General Board of Missions of the church. This is the plan of all organizations of the kind. We may not be strong enough yet to accomplish so much, but we think it is well to at least consider the matter, and thus prepare ourselves in a measure for that which WILL come to pass *sometime*. I wish I could show you some of the encouraging letters coming in almost daily. There is a grand field opening up for the Women of our Evangelical Association, and while I feel that the responsibilities of the hour are very great, I am thankful every day of my life that I have lived to see this movement among the women of our Church. I hope you are successful in your society. You will see something in next week's Messenger about it.

"Send a delegate if possible. If not, we would like a letter containing the report and the "expression" referred to. We

hope to make the meeting interesting and profitable to all who may attend. There will be the usual addresses, and too, we are promised letters of greeting from the missionaries in Japan, Germany and the West. Please write me as soon as you have decided, as we need to know in good time, so as to arrange the Programme and other matters in connection with the occasion. Homes will be provided for all who may come.

Yours most sincerely,

Mrs. W. H. Hammer,

Cleveland, Ohio."

June 3rd and 4th, 1883, were days of real moment to the members of the W. M. S. In Calvary Church, Cleveland, Ohio, in response to the call of Mrs. Hammer, assembled a Woman's Missionary Society Convention. Fifteen societies responded by sending delegates and others by letter. A committee was appointed to draft a letter to the General Conference, pleading for a place in authorized church work. This committee, known as "The Committee of Seven," consisted of Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer, Mrs. H. B. Hartzler, of Cleveland, Miss Minerva Strawman, of Lindsey, Ohio, Mrs. S. P. Spreng, of Circleville, Ohio, Mrs. H. C. Smith, of Naperville, Ill., and Mrs. W. C. Kantner of Terre Hill, Pa.

We are indebted to Mrs. W. H. Hammer, who, we believe, is the only one of the "old guard" left in Ohio, for a complete copy of the program of this historic meeting:

Copy of Program of
**THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CLEVELAND
 WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY**
 of the
EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION
 and
WOMAN'S MISSIONARY CONVENTION
 held in
CALVARY EVANGELICAL CHURCH
 Corner Woodland Ave. and Perry Street, Cleveland
 JUNE 3—4, 1883.
 Anniversary of the Cleveland Society

SUNDAY, JUNE 3rd, 10:45 A. M.

1. Anthem
2. Hymn No. 6.
3. Scripture Reading and Prayer *Rev. J. A. Hensel*
4. Hymn No. 685.
5. Annual Address *Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer*
6. Recording Secretary's Report *Miss A. B. Johnson*
7. Corresponding Secretary's Report *Mrs. W. H. Hammer*
8. Reading of letters from missionaries *Miss E. L. Yost*
9. Anthem.
10. Essay: "Are Woman's Missionary Societies necessary in the Evangelical Association?" *Mrs. W. M. Stanford*
11. Recitation *Miss A. B. Crozier*
12. Address *Rev. H. J. Bowman*
13. Hymn No. 688.
14. Prayer *Rev. W. W. Orwig*
15. Doxology and Benediction.

GENERAL MISSIONARY SERVICE

SUNDAY, JUNE 3rd, 7:30 P. M.

1. Anthem.
2. Hymn.
3. Prayer *Rev. W. M. Stanford*
4. Hymn.
5. Bible Reading *Mrs. Savilla K. Poling*
6. Hymn.
7. Concert Exercise *Boys' Mission Band*
8. Address *Rev. W. Yost*
9. Address *Rev. C. Hammer*
10. Hymn.
11. Address *Rev. H. B. Hartzler*
12. Doxology and Benediction.

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 4th, 1:30 P. M.

1. Hymn.
2. Prayer.
3. Reports of Societies.
4. Discussion of Topics relating to future work.
5. Hymn.
6. Adjournment.

GENERAL MISSIONARY MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 4th, 7:30 P. M.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Anthem. | |
| 2. Opening Service | <i>Rev. J. A. Hensel</i> |
| 3. Address | <i>Rev. William Horn</i> |
| 4. Address | <i>Rev. A. Bornheimer</i> |
| 5. Hymn. | |
| 6. Address | <i>Rev. W. M. Stanford</i> |
| 7. Address | <i>Rev. R. Mott</i> |
| 8. Hymn | |
| 9. Address | <i>Rev. J. H. Lamb</i> |
| 10. Closing Exercises | <i>Rev. H. B. Hartzler</i> |
| 11. Benediction. | |

At the last day's session, a resolution was passed that all women of the church "observe the hour from one to two each day in earnest supplication for the success for the Woman's Missionary Society in the church."

At the General Conference in 1883, Miss Ada B. Johnson, who had been a leading spirit in the Cleveland Society, was appointed missionary to Japan, which intensified the missionary spirit among our women. She served the church as missionary in Japan for eight years. At this Conference, after due deliberation of the petition sent by the committee appointed at the Cleveland Convention, the matter was referred to the Board of Missions which did not meet until the following October, which meant another year of waiting. In the meantime, a column had been opened in the Evangelical Messenger for women, "In The Interest Of The Study Of Missions," and in November, 1884, the motto of the Society, as given by Mrs. W. H. Hammer, appeared for the first time as a heading to the column:

"A WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY IN EVERY CONGREGATION AND EVERY WOMAN A MEMBER."

As the Board of Missions was to meet in the Salem Church in Cleveland, October, 1884, a W. M. S. Convention was called, by the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, to assemble in Calvary Church, Perry Street, October 12, 1884. On the wall was the Society's motto. The committee of seven, having prepared a Constitution, submitted it to the Board of Missions. The other women remained in the prayer room, and with

Mrs. W. M. Stanford as leader, supplicated the Throne of Grace. At the evening session of that eventful day, a committee of two—Miss Minerva Strawman and Mr. D. C. Herr—were sent to obtain the result from the Board of Missions. Upon their return, as they entered the room, with faces all aglow, prayer was turned to praise.

The following morning, October 13, 1884, the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association was formally organized, by the adoption of the Constitution, and the election of officers.

The following Ohio women were present at this Convention:

Miss Kate Klinefelter, and Mrs. Anna Kring, Greensburg; Mrs. M. Hollinger and Mrs. J. Yocky, Akron; Mrs. S. A. Vandersall, Tiffin; Miss Minerva Strawman, Lindsey; Mrs. Nellie Good Schneider, Marshallville; Eliza McCauley, Mrs. Rose Meck, Flat Rock; Mrs. S. K. Fiebach, Brownhelm; Mrs. H. B. Hartzler, Mrs. L. A. Swengel, Mrs. S. L. Wiest, Mrs. W. M. Stanford, Mrs. E. C. Hasenpflug, Mrs. S. A. O. Herlacher, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, and Miss Emma Yost, Cleveland. Mrs. Ella J. Yost Preyer became the first President of the General Society, Mrs. W. H. Hammer Corresponding Secretary, Miss Emma L. Yost, Recording Secretary, Mrs. H. C. Smith, Naperville, 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Allentown, Pa., 2nd Vice-President, Miss Minerva Strawman, Lindsey, 3rd Vice-President, Mrs. U. F. Swengel, Cleveland, Treasurer.

To Mrs. W. H. Hammer, the indefatigable corresponding secretary, who for years had sown the seed by her tireless correspondence with women and pastors in all our churches, Mrs. Ella Yost Preyer, who had made the very best possible use of the available space in the Evangelical Messenger, and to Mrs. E. M. Spreng, who went up and down, throughout our State, interesting, agitating and inspiring women everywhere to organize, pray and give for missions, must be given much of the credit for making the organization possible. Others caught the fire, new societies were organized, and the need was felt for a Branch organization in our own Ohio Conference.

In the Ohio Conference minutes of 1883, this item is found:

"The dozen small Woman's Missionary Societies of the Ohio Conference have, in addition to all their other good work,

raised an amount of money for the missionary cause equal to more than one-fifteenth of the total amount reported for the entire conference district of over 7,700 members."

In the Evangelical Messenger, in the issue of Sept. 9, 1890, appeared the following, it being an extract from the report of the Pleasant Home Camp Meeting, which was held at West Salem, Ohio, as reported by Rev. S. Cocklin:

"A special feature of our camp-meeting was the organization of the Ohio Conference Branch of the W. M. S. on the 22nd. The entire day was given to them. The sisters gave us much valuable instruction on their line of work. May God bless them. One of our own Evangelical boys had charge of the singing, Prof. M. S. Rickel of Shelby, Ohio, assisted by his sisters. They gave general satisfaction."

How much of hopes, prayers and patient waiting culminating in the realization of those hopes, is thus summed up in a few words. During the years intervening since the organization of the General Woman's Missionary Society, several new organizations had been formed in Ohio, and in 1890 Ohio had twenty auxiliaries, with 360 members. At the call of Mrs. F. G. Stauffer, who had been authorized by the General Convention at Reading, Pennsylvania, in 1889, to organize the Ohio Branch, representatives from six of these auxiliaries a little band of devoted women, gathered at Pleasant Home Camp Meeting. Having been granted the privilege of using one day of this meeting, they carried out their program of organization. We are fortunate in having preserved the entire program of this memorable meeting.

The campground was three miles south of West Salem, owned by the Cleveland District, and was formerly a part of the farm of Bishop S. P. Spreng's father. It is said that the Bishop was born there, and was converted in a church near the old camp grounds, a meeting having been continued two weeks for the benefit of this "white-haired boy," as related in the report of Rev. S. Cocklin, mentioned above.

On this historic spot, where many souls have been new born, the Ohio Conference Branch first saw the light, August 22, 1890.

Mrs. F. G. Stauffer was appointed President, pro tem., and Mrs. A. Vandersall, Secretary, at the morning session, which began at 9:30. Devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs. A.



MRS. S. J. GAMERTSFELDER
President 1890-1895



MRS. J. A. HENSEL
Treasurer



MRS. F. G. STAUFFER
Recording Sec'y., organizer and
President Pro tem at
organization

First Officers of Ohio Branch of Evangelical Association



MRS. A. VANDERSALL
Vice President



MRS. E. M. SPRENG
Corresponding Sec'y.



MRS. W. H. HAMMER
Supt. of Mission Bands

First Officers of Ohio Branch of Evangelical Association

Vandersall. Rev. A. Vandersall gave an address of welcome, responded to by Mrs. S. Cocklin. Mrs. W. H. Hammer and others gave explanation of the Constitution. Names of Delegates and Life Members were called and recorded, as follows:

Delegates—Mrs. W. H. Hammer and Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer, of Oakdale Church, Cleveland,

Mrs. J. A. Hensel, Mrs. R. Wilson and Mrs. A. Vandersall, of Akron,

Mrs. P. Mohr, West Salem;

Mrs. S. Cocklin and Miss Miranda Myers, Trinity Station;

Miss Kate Klinefelter, Greensburg, (later Mrs. Kate Klinefelter-Bowman), Life Member.

The Constitution was adopted, and the President pro tem, with glowing face, declared Ohio Branch duly organized.

Below is the form of Branch Constitutions as decided upon by the Board of Missions and adopted by the Ohio Branch:

Article I. This Society shall be called the Ohio Conference Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association of North America.

Article II. The object of this Society is to aid the Woman's Missionary Society in engaging and uniting the efforts of the women in behalf of the Missionary work of the Evangelical Association.

Article III. The members of this Society shall consist of the officers of the Society, the President and two delegates from each local auxiliary, and the honorary and life members within the bounds of the Branch.

Article IV. The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Superintendent of Mission Bands.

Article V. This Branch Society shall hold an Annual Meeting previous to the Annual Meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society to elect its officers and delegates to the Annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society and to transact any business pertaining to its work.

Article VI. The officers of this Society shall constitute an Executive Committee to supervise the entire work of the Branch. It shall be their duty to make earnest efforts to secure the organization of Auxiliaries and Mission Bands in every congrega-

tion in the Conference, and also to arrange for the time and program of Annual Meetings.

Article VII. Each Branch Society shall provide for the expenses of its delegates to the Annual Meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society.

Rev. S. Cocklin and Rev. J. A. Hensel gave appropriate addresses, and the Benediction was pronounced by Rev. J. W. Walkey.

The afternoon session opened with Devotional exercises, conducted by Mrs. F. G. Stauffer, followed by a Question Drawer, by Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer; after this, the committees reported and officers were elected.

The Committee on Ways and Means: Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer, Mrs. S. Cocklin, Miss Kate Klinefelter.

The Committee on Resolutions: Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Mrs. R. Wilson, Mrs. J. A. Hensel.

Officers elected were as follows:

President—Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder,

Vice-President—Mrs. A. Vandersall,

Recording Secretary—Mrs. F. G. Stauffer,

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. L. Naumann,

Treasurer—Mrs. J. A. Hensel.

Mrs. Naumann felt that she could not accept the office of Corresponding Secretary, whereupon the Executive Committee appointed Mrs. E. M. Spreng for this position.

The following program was carried out at the evening session:

Devotional Exercises

Miss Kate Klinefelter

Trio—by ladies.

Paper on Giving

Mrs. F. G. Stauffer

Song by Choir.

Recitation

Miss Ola Rickel

Song

God be with you till we meet again

The Miss Ola Rickel mentioned, whose beautiful gospel songs cheered so many of the early gatherings of the Ohio Branch, is now Mrs. H. R. Atwater, of Hollywood, California; at this time, her sister, Ida, who became Mrs. J. W. Heininger, played the organ.

In the report of the committee on Ways and Means, we notice the following items:

"That each auxiliary raise at least two cents per member towards expenses of the delegates to the annual meeting, to be sent to the Treasurer of the Branch in September.

"That in each auxiliary, each member pay at least 10 cents annually into a contingent fund.

"Since interest and zeal are dependent upon knowledge, and since a Bureau of Literature has been established for the purpose of bringing facts to the sisters, it is our conviction they ought to avail themselves more freely of their privileges."

The Corresponding Secretary was asked to send out letters to each society, explaining the contingent fund, delegates' expenses, and to urge the observance of Thank Offering meeting, organization of Mission Bands, and to *revive dead auxiliaries*. (They had to begin thus early.)

From the very first, the Ohio women have earnestly believed in spreading missionary knowledge, and have labored persistently in that direction. The leaflets first available for distribution, were furnished free through the generosity of Mr. W. H. Hammer.

From the resolutions adopted at this meeting we quote:

"We gratefully acknowledge the love and guidance of our Heavenly Father in thus preparing the way for the realization of our long anticipated hopes and desires in the organization of the Ohio Conference Branch.

"That we pledge our united efforts in the upbuilding of the Ohio Conference Branch, that we strive with unabated zeal to secure the co-operation of every woman in every congregation, throughout the Conference, and the organization of Mission Bands."

In closing this account of the organization of our beloved Ohio Branch, we wish to quote from a letter received from the first Recording Secretary, Mrs. F. G. Stauffer, now residing at Chattanooga, Tennessee. She says:

"I have a pleasant memory of having been associated with Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Mrs. Ella Yost Preyer and other noble women of that period in establishing the work of the W. M. S. among the women of Ohio. I am happy to know that the seed which was sown away back in the latter part of the 19th cen-

tury has grown to become a tree of such sturdy proportions.

"The women who did that early seed-sowing were a brave, devoted band, for they encountered many difficulties and some opposition from the dear brethren who sat in the seats of influence. But through patient continuance in their God-given tasks, they finally saw the seed springing up here and there, and the number of seed-sowers from year to year."

Thus it was with dependence upon Heavenly guidance, and determination to win, that our sisters laid foundations deep and strong.

"In the morning sow thy seed and in the evening withhold not thine hand." Eccl. 11: 6.

CHAPTER II.

1891—1899.

The Seed.

A BUSIER group of women would be hard to find than the officers and other leaders of our Woman's Missionary Society the first year of organized work in Ohio. Progress was slow, for women were not yet accustomed to leadership, and women's meetings were still considered not only unnecessary, but actually out of place in many communities.

Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, the first president, writes of the work this year:

"I was not even present when the organization took place at the Pleasant Home Camp-ground, near West Salem, Ohio, and the news of my election to the office of President came like a shock to me, a thunder-clap out of a clear sky, and it made me feel like running away. We had to begin in a very humble way, and I am sure had it not been for the wonderful help which Mrs. E. M. Spreng and Mrs. W. H. Hammer gave, we would have stranded on the rocks somewhere along the way. Mrs. Spreng as Corresponding Secretary was a host in herself; she spent much time corresponding with the women and with the pastors concerning the necessity of organizing and sometimes she had to suffer some pretty hard things because of her earnestness in the work. The work of the Corresponding Secretary was very different then from what it is now, and meant more to the work than any other office.

"Our first convention was held at Tiffin, Ohio, 1891, and since there was at that time much agitation because of the Church trouble among the brethren, there were some interesting discussions on certain phases of the work. One of the personal reminiscences of that first Convention was this that when called upon by the Vice-President, Mrs. A. Vandersall, to give the "President's Address," I hardly had strength enough in my knees to hold me up and my mouth was so dry it seemed to me the people must hear my tongue click. I don't know but I

think I must have said some very wise things judging from what the women and the pastor, Brother J. Kanaga, said to me afterward, but to me it had been such an agony that I could not bring myself to recall much of what I said."

She further says, "There was such a willingness among the women to help in every way I recall especially the inspiration that Mrs. S. Cocklin was to me, because she was so steady and true.

"We had very little money to work with and much of the expense of those first years was taken out of our own pockets. The first convention sermon was preached by L. H. Seager and was given in his own best style." The Convention, to which Mrs. Gamertsfelder refers, was attended by twenty-four delegates, also several pastors, whose presence was an encouragement to our sisters, and they were made advisory members. Among those present, we notice the names of J. B. Kanaga, J. A. Hensel, L. H. Seager, S. Heininger, P. Cocklin, Rev. Strawman and Rev. Nonnamaker. Although inwardly quaking, our president assumed her chair with womanly dignity, and presided in a way that made all of the delegates proud of her.

An interesting Children's meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, in charge of Mrs. W. H. Hammer. Local missionary efforts were urged upon all auxiliaries, as well as the use of programs, the observance of Thank Offering meeting in February, and a public meeting at some time during the year, the fiscal year at this time being set to commence with June and end with May.

We quote from the Committee on Resolutions:

"We gratefully appreciate the work done by our Missionary Messenger and request each auxiliary to urge its circulation. We gratefully appreciate the spicy programs published in the Evangelical Messenger." These were prepared at that time by Mrs. H. C. Smith and Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder. This resolution is also in the minutes:

"That our Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. E. M. Spreng, at some suitable time during the year, make a tour of the Conference territory, and organize Auxiliaries and Mission Bands, and with the consent of the Pastor, take a collection to defray her expenses." How well she performed this difficult task is shown in the letter of Mrs. Gamertsfelder, which we have quoted.

The same corps of officers had charge of the work during

the coming year. At the second Annual Meeting, at Akron, in 1892, the following delegates reported:

Mrs. Reimhard and Miss Dreisbach for Benton Ridge,
Miss Lesta Martin, Tiffin,
Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Stutz and Mrs. Spreng, Akron,
Mrs. S. P. Spreng, Madison Ave., Cleveland, also Mrs.
Gamertsfelder,

Mrs. Baker, Wayne,
Mrs. L. W. Hankey and Miss Lydia Reinoehl, Marshallville,
Miss Sherrod, West Salem,
Miss Bessie Yost, representing Mission Band, Oakdale. The
life members present, Mrs. W. Yost, and Amanda E. Rickert.

Miss Rickert acted as Secretary in the absence of Mrs.
Stauffer.

The ministerial brethren present: Rev. Perry Greene, Rev.
A. Vandersall, Rev. William Yost, Rev. P. Conklin, Rev. E. M.
Spreng. What would we have done without the ministers, and
especially their faithful wives?

Mrs. W. H. Hammer, one of the pioneers in the forming
of the W. M. S., and a member of the Woman's Board for many
years, speaking of this period of the work in Ohio, says: "Still
another feature, one which helped so *positively* in the success of
the Branch, was the manifest interest and co-operation of the
Pastors. I do not now recall one single instance of opposition
or disinterestedness on the part of the Ohio Conference author-
ities such as our women had to contend with in many other
places."

Mrs. S. P. Spreng was elected Recording Secretary, and
Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder and Mrs. W. H. Hammer delegates to
represent Ohio at the Annual Convention of the General W. M.
S. at Elkhart, Indiana.

Always looking for more work to do, it was decided to ask
the Ohio Conference to give our Branch some special mission to
support "The Conference to have full control of the work as at
present, the W. M. S. merely furnishing the means" and "that
one-half of the money raised by the auxiliaries be devoted to
this purpose."

Suggestion was made to the General W. M. S. that a clause
be inserted in the Constitution defining the relation that the
brethren sustain to the W. M. S., who pay monthly a specific

sum into the treasury of the Society. This provided for what were afterward called, "Associate Members." Rev. Peter Conklin preached the Convention Sermon, from Isaiah 9; 2, which was impressive and interesting. A paper delivered by Miss Bessie Yost on the subject "The Model Mission Band," was so excellent that it was decided to have it published in the *Evangelical Messenger*, *Christliche Botschafter*, and the *Missionary Messenger*. Uplifting addresses, inspiring music and a spirit of fellowship marked the gathering to an unusual degree. The Treasurer's report shows that a total of \$236.86 had been raised during the year, including \$21.80 Thank Offering Money. We note the businesslike methods observed during these days.

"No money shall be paid out of the Treasury without an order signed by the President, Treasurer and Secretary."

Continued dependence, however, was placed in the source of all power. The Executive Committee in their meeting at Cleveland, November 10, 1892, resolved:

"That auxiliaries shall not fail to hold Thank Offering meetings, and *pray* in advance for the success of the Day of Prayer."

Again quoting from Mrs. Gamertsfelder:

"I am sure if the women had not been so sure that the work they were doing was God's work, they would many times have been tempted to quit, but with undaunted faith in God, they pursued their way toward success. I have many pleasant memories of the many happy times we had together and of the many friendships that grew out of the Ohio Branch work. Many of the dear workers have been translated, in fact, in my effort to recall the faces of those who were present at that first convention only a few remain, the majority have passed over into the beyond."

This year and that following was a time of separation for some of the sisters who had worked together so faithfully and prayerfully. Ohio was the one Branch that came out of the general disorganization intact, and held its annual meeting at Flat Rock, with thirty delegates present representing thirteen auxiliaries. Mrs. A. Hunsinger was the local president, and Rev. W. A. Shisler, the pastor with Father Braun at the Orphan Home. Ohio Branch now had 247 members, having made a gain of fourteen that year. West Side Mission in Cleveland had been

assigned by the Ohio Conference as the special work of the W. M. S., and its missionary was requested to write to each auxiliary telling of its needs, each auxiliary being expected to arrange for a week of self-denial for its benefit. Already the problem of what to do with the boys who had outgrown the Mission Band presented itself, but was left to the local societies to decide according to their own best judgment. Mrs. W. H. Hammer was obliged to give up the Mission Band work, and Mrs. E. Hoffman assumed this task. At this time, semi-annual reports were required of the Secretary and Treasurer of each local auxiliary which made the task doubly hard. It was this year 1893, that our Branch established the custom of observing the Universal Day of Prayer. The President's Address had, by this time, become an annual feature; the Convention Sermon, also, on Sunday morning, became an annual custom; this year Rev. J. H. Lamb brought the message, which was a "rich feast, thoughtful and inspiring." Of this Sunday service, Mrs. Gamertsfelder says, "At the Convention at Flat Rock, we were badly in need of funds and were doing our very best to inspire the people of Flat Rock to give us a good offering, but when we said something to the pastor about it, he said, 'Ha, you don't know these people as I do, if you get ten dollars in your Sunday offering, you will do well.' However, we gave him the surprise of his life by getting an offering of nearly thirty dollars."

In 1894 the women gathered at Marshallville for their annual meeting. Mrs. W. H. Hammer, who had attended the World's Woman's Congress on Missions, brought to the Ohio women in a paper prepared by her, the then new idea, of "Proportionate and Systematic Giving." Although this was an innovation in the modern way of giving, the Ohio Branch rose to the occasion and went on record as favoring it, believing that "this is God's plan, whose law is 'one-tenth of our income and one-seventh of our time.'" In the years intervening, we find the W. M. S. persistently expounding and practicing this plan. It was not made a regular department in our organization for a few years, but ever since its introduction, they have patiently taught it, and still find it a very live subject, and a field for growth in usefulness. The Branch observed Self Denial Week in March that year, and Thank-offering in November. The

Convention offering was \$73.96. Seventeen societies reported, their total offerings being \$474.74. It was during this year that the Young People's Alliance was solicited to become interested in the missionary cause by the study of missionary books, use of leaflets, etc., a step which has been far-reaching in its results. Rev. S. P. Spreng preached on Sunday morning, from John 4: 35-38. The chronicler says of this, "The Lord richly blessed us while we tarried together in His sanctuary."

Expansion in numbers and increased gifts, broader knowledge, continued prayer, these key notes were sounded throughout this meeting. The work done seems to have borne fruit, for the Board of Missions at their Berlin, Ontario, meeting that year said of the Woman's Missionary Society:

"Ohio and Indiana are the strongholds of the organization."

The fifth annual session of the Ohio Branch held at Benton Ridge, in 1895, marked the parting of the ways for some of the builders of our organization. Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, whose guiding hand had so successfully led the young Society during these five years of beginning and organizing, was now called to remove to another state. In this connection, this resolution was presented by Mrs. W. H. Hammer and Mrs. E. M. Spreng:

"Resolved, That we wish Mrs. Gamertsfelder God-speed, wherever she goes, and pledge our love and sympathy as a small token of our appreciation of her efforts in bringing the Ohio Conference Branch to its present state of prosperity."

This was adopted by a rising vote and the singing of "Blest be the Tie." It was a moment of deep feeling among all who were present.

It was also necessary for Mrs. S. P. Spreng and Mrs. J. A. Hensel to retire from the Executive Committee at this time. The newly elected group of officers were:

President, Mrs. W. H. Hammer; Vice-President, Mrs. E. M. Spreng; Recording Secretary, Miss Bessie Yost; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. J. H. Lamb; Treasurer, Mrs. A. C. Stull; Superintendent of Mission Bands, Miss Rose George.

A steady growth is noted during this year, the membership having increased to 360, and the gifts to \$563.18. Many new life-members were received, and the talent developed among

the Ohio women was wonderfully brought out in the interesting and varied program presented. The papers at this meeting were afterwards printed in the *Missionary Messenger*. The annual sermon was delivered by Rev. W. H. Bucks, from the text: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come."

Among the suggestions at this meeting for reaching the women of congregations where there is no Woman's Missionary Society, we note the following: "Bombard the preachers' wives with letters until they arouse the women in the congregation, or better yet, bombard both the preacher and his wife." Judging by the number of societies organized by preachers or their wives, this suggestion must have been acted upon, for it is certainly largely due to the continued support and efforts of the brethren of the Ohio Conference, and their dear wives, that our Branch has had so steady and sure a growth.

The new subject of Systematic and Proportionate Giving was presented in a convincing manner by Miss Mary Twigg, who is later known as Mrs. L. H. Seager, and after discussion, twenty-five persons testified that they gave in this manner. In response to the question, how many have been converted during this meeting, four sisters arose. "Praise the Lord." The pastors were asked to preach at least one sermon this year on this subject.

Other important decisions were to have a table of literature at each Branch meeting, that badges should be provided for delegates, and that organizers should be appointed for each presiding elder district; also that the special message to the auxiliaries be contained in the words suggested by the Corresponding Secretary—"Courage, hopefulness, charity, faith, prayer, consecration, work."

Mrs. H. Bennett was appointed to have charge of Literature, which work she very ably carried on for years. No one knew better than she and Mrs. Hammer, our new President, that it was only by constant spread of information through leaflets, the *Missionary Messenger* and *Missionary Books* that interest in the missionary work would be developed. "Line upon line, Precept upon precept;" thus we learn and thus we grow.

Mrs. Hammer, because of ill health was unable to attend the convention the following year, but had been busy with her pen and with prayer, and sent her greetings to the women assembled at Columbus. These were read by Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. E. M. Spreng, presiding. The papers presented at this meeting were so helpful that they were turned over to the Literature Committee to be printed as leaflets, some of them still being in circulation.

The Convention sent a message of sympathy to their absent president, Ps. 41: 3 and Isa. 43: 2, she in turn giving them as their watchword for the coming year Col. 3: 16, 17.

In accordance with the request of the General Society, a Committee on Proportionate and Systematic Giving was appointed, who recommended the study and circulation of literature upon this subject. Miss Mattie Negele, of Tiffin, was appointed to act with the General Committee in their work of education. It was through our own Mrs. Hammer that this subject was introduced at the General Convention, and the Committee appointed.

The Executive Committee sent a letter to the Ohio Conference, presenting more fully the needs of the Woman's Missionary Society, and plans for district conventions were made. The plan devised by the General Society as to the defraying of the expenses of delegates, was abandoned, as it was found impracticable. The Treasurer was glad to report that our 556 members had laid upon the altar the "extra gift" of \$907.00.

Small wonder that it has been to the women of the Woman's Missionary Society that the pastors have turned for never failing help. We find at this Convention, our sisters adopting the following resolution, one which we are sure was earnestly carried out:

"That the auxiliaries enter more heartily into all the plans of the pastor for the advancement of Christ's work, and that they assure him of their sympathy, prayer, and willingness to work with him." With this spirit ruling the hearts of our women, the work of the Branch continued to prosper and its influence spread. A number of years ago at an Ohio Conference session, after the appointments had been assigned, a certain pastor very eagerly sought, in the Conference Journal, the report from his new field. Upon inquiry, his brother pastors

learned that it was not the salary question he was so deeply interested in, but whether there was a W. M. S. auxiliary. No greater compliment could be paid the Woman's Missionary Society. May she always prove worthy of such confidence on the part of the pastors.

We notice among the 16 new life members received at the Gibsonburg meeting in 1897, the names of Miss Estella Schultz and Miss Ella Horn, both of whom have served for many years as treasurers of the funds of the W. M. S., the former in our Branch, and Miss Horn as General Treasurer. The interests of the young women were beginning to concern our leaders, and at this convention the Saturday evening session was devoted to that subject. Much difficulty was experienced in securing prompt and correct reports from the auxiliaries. The report of the Ways and Means Committee says:

"Resolved, that the President of each auxiliary shall see that the reports of the Treasurer and Secretary exactly correspond and that they are sent to the proper Branch officers." As Mrs. H. Bennett in "Her Story" says, "These ghostly report blanks will not down." After nearly thirty years the officers are still trying to have them filled accurately and returned promptly.

At this time, Miss Mary Gamertsfelder prepared the programs for the W. M. S. and Miss Bessie Yost, for the Mission Bands, and Mrs. Gaehr in the German language, for the denominational papers. The Ohio Branch resolved to "pray up, talk up, and work up the interests of the Evangelical Messenger, and Christliche Botschafter."

The Warren, Pennsylvania, auxiliary, for a number of years, with the assistance of the Christian Endeavor Society, supported a young Japanese preacher, by the name of Rev. Ishide, and Mrs. George Folkman read a very interesting letter from Rev. Ishide at this meeting. Mrs. Folkman was the inspiring genius of the organization of the Warren auxiliary which was organized in 1883.

Loving tribute was paid to the memory of our sisters, Mrs. S. L. Umbach, and Mrs. Tryphena Hobson, who were taken away through death, and an expression of sympathy was sent to the bereaved ones.

At this Convention, Mrs. E. M. Spreng acted as Record-

ing Secretary, Miss Bessie Yost having removed to San Antonio, Texas. Miss Mattie Negele was appointed Manager of the Department of Systematic and Proportionate Giving, this being made a regular department. The greetings sent by Miss Kate Klinefelter-Bowman, a charter member, were gratefully received, and a reply, Ps. 91: 11 sent to her.

Mrs. E. M. Spreng, having been called to the office of President of the General Woman's Missionary Society, in 1892, was obliged to gradually give up her active participation in the work of the Ohio Branch in the carrying out of her larger duties. However, Mrs. Spreng always maintained her interest in the success of the Ohio Branch, and whenever possible, was found at the annual meetings. In 1898, in the Convention assembled at Mt. Cory, a letter was received from her, to which the following reply was sent: "Ohio Branch Convention sends love and greetings, Psalm 96." Also this resolution was placed upon the minutes: "Whereas Mrs. E. M. Spreng, our beloved president of the General Woman's Missionary Society, has so often been with us in former Conventions, and inspired us with her enthusiasm and stimulated with her kind words of encouragement and so kindly remembered us by letter,

"Therefore, resolved, that we deeply regret her absence and feel that there is a vacant place in our midst.

"That we give to her our sincere sympathy and that our prayers will ascend to God, that she may receive spiritual and physical strength for service, and that we show our appreciation by carrying out the precepts therein and giving her our thanks."

The fulfillment of our motto—"A Woman's Missionary Society in every congregation, and every woman a member" was stressed at this Convention, and each auxiliary was urged to secure a circulating Missionary library or missionary magazines.

The idea had developed in Mrs. W. H. Hammer's fertile mind that a department for the little folks would be productive of much good, both for the mothers and the cause of missions. This thought was discussed by her at this meeting, and a Cradle Roll recommended to the mothers, as she said, "To instill into the minds of their infants a love for missions."

A circulating letter was sent out, from the Oakdale Church,

at the request of the executive committee, giving plans of work and methods used in monthly meetings. For the first time, in 1898, a representative from the Ohio Branch was sent to the Ohio Conference, Mrs. J. H. Lamb acting in that capacity that year; since this time, the W. M. S. has been represented at each session of that body. In the report of the Ways and Means Committee, we note the following:

"Whereas, the Ohio Conference is burdened with the need of funds for Home Missions, therefore,

"We recommend that the women of the Church bestir themselves in agitating and training on the line of giving, until there is no further cry about the lack of means."

Thus, the Ohio Branch Woman's Missionary Society has ever striven, not only to give, but to train others to do so, for the extension of the Kingdom, and has created a much greater interest in missions throughout the church.

In 1899, the Convention was held in historic Lindsey, with Rev. and Mrs. A. N. McCaulay in the parsonage, Mrs. Neitz and Miss Nellie Good, acting as secretaries, Miss Martin being absent. The Cradle Roll was further discussed, and it was decided that the Mission Band Manager promote its interests through the local Mission Band Superintendents, or pastors. Madison Ave., Cleveland, reported a roll with twelve members, giving them first place on the Honor Roll. The following resolution is also recorded:

"That the wives of the Presiding Elders be the District Organizers wherever convenient."

A plan of prayer cycle, with a special topic for prayer for each month, was also arranged for, and this suggestion was referred to the Executive Committee of the Woman's Board. Up to this time the Business sessions of the Conventions were held on Monday, but henceforth the Conventions closed on Sunday evening. One of the interesting features of this gathering was the presence and address of Rev. Neitz and his wife, returned missionaries from Japan, with their curios.

The retiring president, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, was given an expression of appreciation for her "untiring zeal and efficient service." Although Mrs. Hammer was unable to longer bear the burden of responsibility of president, she continued to serve in other capacities, and has never ceased to love, and give her-

self for the cause of missions, in the Ohio Branch and in the larger field. Being a charter member of the first Cleveland society, a charter member of the Ohio Branch, through all the years her influence has continued to spread in the hearts of those associated with her, until it is impossible to estimate the measure of it. She has lived to see the tiny seed she helped to sow, become a mighty billowing field, covering many continents and changing the destinies of millions of souls. How much Ohio Branch owes to her, is more than we can tell.

The records for this year, show that our Branch had now grown to a membership of 540, with 25 Auxiliaries, 94 Systematic and Proportionate Givers (Tithers), and \$948.20 contributed. The figures continue to grow.

Sown in tears, watered with prayers, God shall give the increase.



Mrs. H. C. BERGER
President 1904-1910



Mrs. C. R. BEERBOWER
President 1917-1922



Mrs. L. H. SEAGER
President 1903-1904

Ohio Branch

CHAPTER III.

1900—1910.

The Field.

THE year 1900 marked not only the beginning of a new Century, but also the first time the Ohio Branch Woman's Missionary Society passed the \$1,000.00 mark in gifts, as shown by the excellent report given by Miss Mary Schultz, Treasurer. The Convention was held in Greenspring, beginning on Thursday evening, in charge of Mrs. J. H. Lamb, the new president. Mrs. A. D. Weist, the manager of the Mission Bands and Cradle Roll, was not able to be present, but sent greetings and her report. A Roll of Honor was provided for all Auxiliaries securing twenty-five or more subscribers to the Missionary Messenger or Missionbote, our new missionary paper in the German language. We asked the General Board to make changes in the report blanks to include a space for reporting amount paid for Branch expenses, number of Honorary Members, amount appropriated for China, and amount raised by Mission Bands. It was much desired that a complete list of all life members be preserved for future records, and we find that this was done until about 1917, when for some reason it was dropped, so that the record is now incomplete. As is generally known, the payment of ten dollars into the General Treasury made one a life member of the Woman's Missionary Society, and entitled her to representation at the Annual Conventions, and other privileges. For many years, the securing of Life Members was one of the features of the annual meetings, and many thousands of dollars were poured into the General Fund by this method of giving.

The Quadrennial in 1899 assigned the support of two Japanese preachers to the Mission Bands, which gave them the advantage of a special object for part of their funds. The women assembled, renewed their pledge to the plan of Proportionate and Systematic Giving, and encouraged the two-cent-a-week plan of giving to Missions of the Young People's Alliance.

The Board of Missions having granted the Woman's Missionary Society their long-hoped for privilege of sending out their *very own* missionaries, Miss Anna M. Kammerer and Miss Susan

Bauernfeind were appointed to go to the Japan field, and sailed September 22, 1900. Ohio Branch was fortunate in having one of these "sisters twain," as they were often called, Miss Anna M. Kammerer, as its guest at the Greenspring Convention, her presence creating a greater interest in missions than ever before, and she was made an honorary member of Ohio Branch. This year also marked the beginning of a China Fund, \$27.92 being given for this purpose.

A wonderful consecration service, conducted by Miss Mary Gamertsfelder, Ashland, Ohio, on the subject, "Strength in Weakness," marked the opening of the Convention, held in the Oakdale Church, Cleveland, in 1901. Mrs. Preyer, the first General President, and Mrs. E. M. Spreng were also present on this occasion, and added inspiration with their helpful suggestions. \$419.11 was raised during the Convention. The Cradle Roll plan—twenty-five cents paid into the Mission Band Treasury constituting the child a member of the Cradle Roll—was suggested to the General Board. The Recording Secretary being absent, Mrs. E. D. Paulin served in that capacity. As a diversion from the business sessions in the afternoon a trolley ride to Euclid Beach Park was provided for delegates and visitors, and a musicale in the evening.

The result of the personal contact with Miss Kammerer, and the sending out of our first lady missionaries by the Woman's Missionary Society, is shown by the great increase in gifts for Missions this year, the grand total being \$1242.87, an increase of more than \$200.00 over the preceding year.

At Butler, in 1902, Miss Marie Schneider, of Akron, who later became Mrs. Marie Sywulka, missionary to Africa, responded to the address of welcome. Five new societies reported. This year marked the beginning of the connection of Mrs. W. L. Naumann, with the Ohio Branch, she having come to Columbus, Main Street Church, as the wife of its pastor. We were glad to have with us Mrs. F. C. Neitz, formerly a missionary to Japan, who spoke on "Manners and Customs of the Japanese." Mrs. E. M. Spreng assisted the campaign for the Japan Building Fund by selling thirty-five shares at \$1.00 a share. This was for a building for our lady missionaries in Japan. Mrs. H. Bennett's leadership during the devotional periods was

splendid. It was at this time that the helps provided for United Study of Missions were adopted.

Ashland entertained the Convention in 1903, Mrs. Effie Meyers Fuhrman giving the address of welcome. Letters received from Anna M. Kammerer and Rev. F. W. Voegelien of Tokyo, Japan, were full of interest. One of the new faces at this meeting was that of Mrs. H. A. Kramer, the mother of two girls who later went out to Japan as missionaries, Misses Lois and Sarah Kramer. She spoke on the subject, "Whose Money," and Mrs. John Hobson, of Gibsonburg, spoke on "Sent Forth." Six new societies were reported. The missionary library had now increased to 100 volumes, and Ohio had 409 subscribers to the Missionary Messenger. Tiffin having invited the Quadrennial to meet in that city, this Convention was held there in August. Mrs. H. J. Heimberger represented Ohio Branch on the program at Tiffin, at the request of the Executive Committee.

Mrs. L. H. Seager, whose fine gifts and capacity for leadership were given freely for the cause of Missions in the Ohio Branch, until called to a larger field, was chosen President, Mrs. Lamb being unable longer to continue in the work.

Among the Cradle Roll babies whose names were received in 1904 at Marion we note "Wilbert Spreng Weatherwax, Charles William Seager, and Ruth Naomi Paulin." Consequently several of the officers were unable to be present at this Convention, and the poet of the Ohio Branch, Mrs. H. Bennett, summed up the situation in the following lines:

"Respectfully submitted to the Babies of the Executive Committee of the Ohio Branch.

*"Babies, what means this intervention
With our Ohio Branch Convention?
Baby Seager refusing to roam
Decides to remain in the President's home.
We remember Baby Paulin came
Seeking 'corresponding' fame,
Do you know, my dears, it is quite a pity
To thus upset the Branch committee?
We 'resolve' and 'move by acclamation'
But the babies control the situation."*

However, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, the Vice President, took charge of the Convention, so that the Lord's business did not suffer. Mrs. E. M. Spreng was also present with her able assistance. "Rex Christus," the study book in the uniform series, which from this time on has been followed by our women, was discussed. Mrs. E. Wengerd, having been called home during the year, resolutions of sympathy were sent to her bereaved husband. The W. M. S. asked Ohio Conference to allow them a stated time at each annual meeting of the Conference Missionary Society, to present their work, also at the Camp meetings, which was granted. Mrs. H. C. Berger, of Bucyrus, wife of Rev. H. C. Berger, for many years presiding elder in the Ohio Conference, and a sister of Mrs. E. M. Spreng, was elected President, which office she ably filled for the succeeding six years.

"Some can go, most can give, all can pray," was the motto of the Fifteenth Annual Convention, held at Mt. Cory, in 1905. Mrs. H. C. Berger was in charge and 56 delegates reported. The Secretary's report showed the encouraging number of 750 members, 150 "tithers;" Ohio Branch now had 33 societies.

The W. M. S. rallies at Camp meetings were fruitful of much good, and were continued. Resolutions of sympathy were extended to the families of our departed sisters, Mrs. A. C. Stull and Mrs. A. F. Totheroh. The most interesting feature was the address of Miss Katherine Eyerick, who had taken up work among the Italians at Wellsville. Her experiences there, and the success of her work led the women of the Ohio Branch to send an appeal to the Board of Control of the Woman's Missionary Society to consider some provision whereby the work among the foreigners in our midst, particularly the Italians, might be taken up by the W. M. S. as soon as possible. This was the beginning of our Italian work. Miss Eyerick was made a life member of the Ohio Branch. She later became the sainted Mrs. Giuliani, and has passed to her reward, but her work will never die.

Mrs. Berger again had charge of the meeting at Bellevue, in 1906. In her address she said: "All are called to work somewhere—none to idleness." Our own Miss Mary Gamertsfelder and Miss Marie Schneider having made arrangements to sail as missionaries to darkest Africa, greetings were sent to them

from the convention. Mrs. C. H. Vandersall served as secretary, pro-tem. The Treasurer, Mrs. John Hobson, reported the splendid sum of \$1665.28 raised for all purposes, an average of \$1.91 per member. The literature table was still in charge of Mrs. H. Bennett. Mrs. W. H. Bucks, organizer, reported one new society, Independence, and seven new subscribers to the Missionary Messenger. A special Honor Roll was provided for every auxiliary, inviting every woman who belongs to the church to become a member of the Woman's Missionary Society. (The beginning of the every member canvass.) Each auxiliary was also asked to appoint some member to secure names for the Cradle Roll and report them to the Mission Band Superintendent of the Branch. Twenty ministers were present at this Convention, also the President of the Erie Branch, Mrs. C. H. Gehlke. Mrs. H. A. Kramer, speaking on, "China," Mrs. S. P. Spreng, "America," and Mrs. E. M. Spreng, "Japan," made a wonderful trio for the Sunday night's program. A glimpse of African missionary work was given in Rev. McQuire's talk, "Six Years on the Congo," with many native customs and conditions made plain.

Some of the good things said: "God's people are not only God's Bible to the world, but also its commentary." Miss Negele.

"Christ's two great words were, 'Come' and 'Go.'" Rev. Staebler.

Bellevue friends gave the visitors and delegates a delightful trip to the Orphan Home at Flat Rock on Friday afternoon, when the exercises of the Patterson graduating class were witnessed, also were shown Bishop Seybert's wagon and some enjoyed the rare privilege of riding in this relic.

The Anniversary service by charter members of the Lindsey society at the 1907 Convention, was an event long to be remembered. The following program was carried out:

(a) Presentation of gavel. This was a gavel sent by Miss Marie Schneider, made from an African tree.

(b) Devotional Exercises, led by Mrs. L. Naumann, first President.

(c) Roll Call by first Assistant Secretary.

(d) Reminiscences by members.

Mrs. Paulin was president of the Lindsey society at this time, and led them in reciting the Covenant, and singing our

Covenant Hymn. This Hymn was composed by Miss Mary Gamertsfelder and has become a part of the Ohio Branch literature.

COVENANT

"Rejoicing in the manifold personal benefits of the Gospel, while millions, for whom Christ died, have never heard of Christ, the Redeemer, and are without God and without hope in the world; mindful of the command, "Go tell" and of the injunction, "Freely ye have received, freely give," and knowing that "obedience is better than sacrifice," and that "he that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again, with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him," I cheerfully covenant with God and my Co-workers to pray without ceasing; to daily make offerings of Time and Strength and Substance, to the end that the heathen and the unsaved of the whole world may be brought into the fold of the Great Shepherd, and that Christ, my Savior, may become King of all the earth. Amen."

COVENANT HYMN

<i>"Thou God of Sovereign Grace,</i>	<i>To know that Thou wilt lead</i>
<i>We come to Thee.</i>	<i>Is strength for every need,</i>
<i>Seeking to know Thy Will;</i>	<i>Thy presence, Lord, we plead,</i>
<i>Thine we would be,</i>	<i>Comfort and cheer.</i>
<i>Led by Thine unseen hand</i>	<i>"Hither Thy loving care</i>
<i>To work in any land.</i>	<i>Has been our stay,</i>
<i>Keep Thou our loyal band</i>	<i>With confidence we ask</i>
<i>Faithful to Thee.</i>	<i>Strength as our day;</i>
<i>"Obediently we'll go</i>	<i>So by Thy help to be</i>
<i>With Thee so near,</i>	<i>Faithful and true to Thee</i>
<i>Thy covenanted love</i>	<i>Unto eternity</i>
<i>Casteth out fear;</i>	<i>Help us, we pray."</i>

"Christus Redemptor," the study book, was quoted at Roll Call. The principal speakers were Rev. G. Heinmiller and Mrs. T. W. Woodside, from Africa, a missionary there for eighteen years. The Convention sermon, preached by Rev. G. Heinmiller, was from William Carey's text, Isa. 54: 34, which resulted in the organization of the Baptist Missionary Society. Rev. Heinmiller divided his sermon, as did William Carey, into two parts:

1. Expect great things from God;
2. Attempt great things for God.

Thirty-seven life members were received, and fifty-two cradle roll members. Among the plans made:

The Harvard plan of entertainment for conventions.

Monthly executive meetings.

Prayer for the Quadrennial in August, and for the General President.

Two societies were organized. The total offering reported marked another milestone, being \$2,131.62.

In 1908, at the Marshallville Convention, it was decided to separate the Cradle Roll from the Mission Band, making it a separate department, and the Executive Committee appointed Mrs. L. B. Myers to take charge of this work, but being unable to do so, Mrs. E. D. Paulin, wife of Rev. E. D. Paulin, one of the staunch supporters of the Woman's Missionary Society, assumed the responsibility, which she has borne continuously during all the years since.

Another new word was introduced into the Branch vocabulary, the Bible word, "Tithing;" the department of Systematic and Proportionate Giving being changed to the Department of Tithing.

At the Convention, a special feature was a Bureau of Information, consisting of Mrs. E. M. Spreng, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, and Mrs. John Hobson.

The Reading Circle plan, by which each one reading a certain number of missionary books was entitled to a diploma, was adopted, and explained by Mrs. E. M. Spreng. Canaan, Marion Circuit, and Kenmore were organized.

A step towards a separate department of Literature was taken in the appointment of a Literature Committee, consisting of Mrs. W. H. Hammer and Mrs. W. L. Naumann, who should provide a "Budget of Literature," to be secured by each auxiliary, if possible, for use among its members.

Great inspiration was given to the delegates by the presence, addresses and sweet songs of Miss Cora Haller, then newly appointed missionary to Japan, from the Erie Branch, (now Mrs. Cora Gaehr), and she was made an honorary member of the Ohio Branch. Mrs. Austin Shoemaker, missionary

from Canton, China, gave much needed information about the work in that country.

News was received of the organization of "The Young Eighteenth," as Mrs. H. Bennett called it, being a Branch of the W. M. S. organized in Kijabe, B. E. Africa, by Mrs. Marie Schneider-Sywulka. Miss Mary Gamertsfelder and Mrs. Sywulka were both working at this place, and the Ohio Branch showed its appreciation of the work done by these former associates by enthusiastically welcoming the news of this organization; Baby Sywulka was made a Cradle Roll baby by Mrs. Naumann, her little girl, by Clara Klinefelter, and Mary Gamertsfelder's adopted boy by Carrie Gamertsfelder, her sister.

Mrs. Naumann was appointed to prepare a leaflet embodying committee suggestions to be circulated among the auxiliaries, at a cost not to exceed \$5.00. This leaflet was concise and to the point, and gave the auxiliaries just the help they needed to conform to the changes and suggestions made by the Convention. Lack of space forbids our giving the leaflet intact, much as we would like to do so.

The convention of the Ohio Branch assembled at West Salem was greeted by the mottoes: "Saved to Serve," "The World for Christ." Twenty seven societies were represented. Mrs. Prickett, Superintendent of Mission Bands, and Miss Clara Klinefelter, Corresponding Secretary, were unable to be present, on account of sickness, but sent their reports. Three new societies and three Mission Bands were organized. A recommendation was sent to the General Board to abandon the topic of Thank Offering for the November meeting, and instead send out a call, through the Missionary Messenger and Evangelical Messenger, for a special public Thank Offering Service; also that the Vice President be Superintendent of Tithing in each local auxiliary.

It was again the privilege of the Convention to have an out-going missionary as a guest; this time Miss Elizabeth Schempp, under appointment to China, addressed them. Miss Susan M. Bauernfeind, home on furlough, was also present, and our General President, Mrs. E. M. Spreng. Bishop S. P. Spreng described his recent trip to China, where our missionaries are located. As recorded by the faithful secretary: "Our heart strings were fairly torn as he gave very vivid, dark yet true,

pictures of their pitiable condition without the Gospel and pleaded for our more earnest activity for their salvation." Bishop Spreng in the Convention sermon said, "The truest missionary activity is in *living* our Christianity."

Ashland, Blissfield, Circleville, Fremont, Kenmore, Marion, Toledo, Warren and West Salem were on the Honor Roll for asking each member of the church to join the Woman's Missionary Society. Through the generosity of Miss Sarah Myers, Mrs. J. Wengerd, Mrs. George Higgins, Mrs. W. H. Bucks, Mrs. S. P. Spreng, Mrs. Nettie Martin Welmagood, and Mary and Imogene Smith, more than fifty babies were added to our Cradle Roll from far away Japan. Mrs. Rose Harbaugh, one of the faithful workers of West Salem, who had passed to her reward, was honored by a loving tribute, and Mrs. H. A. Kramer was delegated to place roses upon her grave.

The executive committee had endeavored to secure a field secretary to further promote the work of organizing, but being unable to do so, that work was divided among the members of the executive committee which proved very profitable. To promote greater activity in securing subscribers for the Missionary Messenger, a banner was made to be given to the society securing the most subscribers in proportion to its membership. In 1910, at the Fremont Convention, this banner went to Tontogany presented by Miss Clara Klinefelter. The slogan for this year was, "Double our membership." While the aim was not quite reached, yet a very creditable gain was shown, also in gifts: The membership in 1910 being 1251, 42 Auxiliaries reporting, and \$3615.47, including a bequest of about \$400 from the Julian Schrote estate, of Marion, our total gift. "Miss Horn, the General Treasurer, wrote: "It will keep Ohio Branch hustling to make a big gain on that next year but I know they can do it." Whether we did or not, can be seen in the report for 1911.

The study book, "From Darkness to Light," was very interestingly presented by Mrs. Naumann. Mrs. E. M. Spreng presented the diplomas to nineteen who had completed the Reading Course. Mrs. Bennett still was selling the literature, but this year a new department, that of Literature was added, in charge of Miss Estella Schultz, who was also elected Treasurer.

A glimpse of the work in South America was given in the

address of Mrs. G. W. Ray on "Life among the Savages of Brazil." On Sunday morning, Rev. George Johnson spoke from the text, "Go quickly and tell."

Leaflets containing principal thoughts brought out at the Convention and in addition, totals of statistical reports, were issued. The aim was set at 2500 members for the new year. Fall Rally was recommended to each auxiliary, also Thank Offering Day in November, Day of Prayer in February, and attendance at Winona School of Missions. The Ways and Means Committee was headed by Mrs. W. H. Hammer, and Mrs. C. H. Vandersall was Secretary.

As Mrs. Berger felt that she had borne the burden of the Branch work long enough, Mrs. W. L. Naumann was elected to take it up.

Thus in the twenty years of the life of the Ohio Branch, the tiny seed had firmly taken root, the soil had been thoroughly prepared, and the plants had become sturdy and strong.

CHAPTER IV.

1911—1917.

Branching Out.

THE year 1911 marked the Fiftieth Anniversary of Woman's Foreign Missionary Work, and was celebrated throughout Christendom as the Golden Jubilee. The occasion inspired another of Mrs. H. Bennett's beautiful poems, which, set to the tune, "Stand up, Stand up for Jesus," was the Convention Song in 1911 of the Ohio Branch—

"THE FIFTIETH YEAR"

*"We come, O God, to praise Thee
For strength and vanquished fears.
For all Thy wondrous blessings
Through fifty golden years.
We praise Thee that sin's captives
In many distant lands,
Through woman's work for Jesus,
Lift up unshackled hands.*

*"O lead us still, our Master,
Against the powers of sin;
The doors are flung wide open,
O, help us enter in.
May multitudes of aliens
Be swiftly brought to Thee,
In this our year of gladness,
The Golden Jubilee."*

The Convention assembled in the Calvary Church at Marion, Ohio, with our new president, Mrs. W. L. Naumann, in the chair. Splendid reports were brought in for the year's work; Bethlehem, Marion Circuit, secured the banner for Missionary Messenger subscriptions, this being a church of which Rev. John Hobson was pastor. This circuit was the only one in the Ohio Conference at that time which had a Woman's Missionary Society at every appointment. No doubt some of the

credit, at least, was due to the activity of the pastor and his wife for the cause of missions. Mrs. Mack, a member of the Canaan Society on this circuit, was also a pioneer in the work, having been a charter member of the Lindsey society.

Dr. and Mrs. Krumling, missionaries from Shen Chow Fu, Hunan, China, addressed the Convention, also Miss Alice Niederhauser, who was under appointment as educational missionary to China. Miss Niederhauser told of her call to the missionary work, and closed her address with the request: "May I belong to you, and will you pray for me as though I were your daughter?"

She was made an honorary member of the Branch by the Convention, and her influence was effective in bringing to a head the long felt need for a society for the young women. Among the items recommended by the Ways and Means Committee, of which Mrs. Hammer was chairman, we find the following:

"Resolved, that the Executive Committee prepare plans for the organization of Young Woman's Missionary Societies whenever practical and advantageous."

This recommendation was made to the Quadrennial Convention at Holton, Kansas, at which Miss Niederhauser was also present, with the result that the plan for Young Women's Missionary Circles was worked out, and Mrs. L. H. Seager, now of Le Mars, Iowa, appointed as first General Secretary.

Other recommendations: A Branch Prayer Calendar to be prepared by the General Board;

That the Quadrennial send a petition to General Conference asking the privilege as local auxiliaries of having a representative in quarterly conference;

That the following items be added to the report blanks:

1. How many deaths?
2. How many calls in interest of church?
3. One plan tried and found successful.

A Standard of Excellence was adopted as follows:

15% increase in membership.

15% increase in gifts.

Correspondence promptly answered.

A Missionary Messenger in home of every church member.

A public Thank Offering Service held.

A Reading Circle.

Day of Prayer observed.

A prayer calendar in hands of every member.

An average attendance at regular meetings equal to one-half of the membership.

A Mission Band and Little Herald Roll in connection with the auxiliary.

Mrs. Mabel Stull Herrold, of Mansfield, presented the new Study Book, "Advance in the Antilles." Miss Sarah Myers, who at this time prepared the programs for the Mission Bands, in the Missionary Messenger, had charge of the children's work in the Convention. Miss Myers, who has since become Mrs. E. Tittlebaugh, has a wonderful knowledge of children and their needs, and has been a great help to leaders of Mission Bands throughout the church by means of this understanding.

Rev. William Yost, that old soldier of the Cross, preached the Convention sermon with his usual vigor, and Rev. J. W. Heininger administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday morning.

The Ohio Branch was now of age, twenty-one years old and with its membership of over 1300 realized as perhaps never before its tremendous opportunity and responsibility.

At the Twenty Second Annual Convention at Akron, in 1912, a fine assortment of books, leaflets and pamphlets were found on the table in the rear of the room, in charge of Miss Clara Vandersall. It was a veritable feast of good things from the beginning when the Convention began with, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh mine help," until its close with, "Mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts," and all that went between tended to actualize in the lives of those present a very real dependence on God and a glorious experience of His presence, and power, until many must have said in their hearts, "Here am I, send me."*

The presence of Miss Mary Gamertsfelder, missionary to Africa, Rev. and Mrs. A. Butzbach, a letter from Mrs. Sywulka, whose home was formerly in Akron, and who was a much beloved member of the church before she became a missionary to Africa, encouraging reports showing substan-

*Minutes of Secretary.

tial increases in all respects, were some of the features that made this meeting a real step upward. Rev. Butzbach and his wife were at this time home on furlough after six years' service in China. It being Dr. Krumling's birthday, united prayer was offered in behalf of him and his wife, and their work in China.

Mrs. J. Hobson brought a report from the Quadrennial held in 1911, at Holton, Kansas. Mrs. Raffoni, the leader of our new Missionary Society at Wellsville among the Italians, was present, and read the names of the charter members, and was greeted by a rising vote.

Request was sent to the Woman's Board that the Young Women of the Ohio Branch be permitted to support Miss Natalie Berner on "The Niederhauser Plan;" this, however, was not granted, as Miss Berner was assigned to the Mission Bands, and Miss Susan Bauernfeind to our Young Woman's Societies. Days for our Missionary were solicited, and Mrs. G. E. Lamale, of Napoleon was appointed Secretary of Young Women's Work.

Mrs. Mabel Herrold conducted a study of the new Study Book, "Conservation of National Ideals." The "Gist of the Convention," was again printed and sent to all auxiliaries.

A special committee, consisting of Mrs. H. C. Berger, Mrs. Paulin, Mrs. Herrold, Miss Clara Klinefelter and Mrs. E. M. Spreng, appointed to consider the proposition made by Rev. J. W. Heininger, regarding the securing of a permanent meeting place for gatherings of the Woman's Missionary Society and the Young People's Alliance, reported as follows:

"We believe that such a place would be desirable and prove a blessing for campmeetings, Bible Study, Mission Study and a Rally Day for the W. M. S., but we are persuaded that it would not be for the highest and best continued interest of the Woman's Missionary Society to hold its annual Convention at such a place. Resolved,

"First, We feel that we cannot afford to lose the inspiration that comes to the local organization by holding the Convention at a different place each year.

"Second, We do not feel that we are in a position to offer financial support.

"Third, That the Executive Committee of our Branch be authorized to give our moral support to the project."

Mrs. John Hobson was chairman of the Ways and Means Committee which recommended:

"That every society appoint a Secretary of Young Woman's Work to organize and interest the young women in missionary work in every way possible and also to aid in securing funds for the support of our missionary.

That the literature committee be responsible for securing subscriptions for the newly dressed up Missionary Messenger.

That an every member canvass be made in October, followed by a rally, as this was very successful last year.

That the following changes be made in the Standard of Excellence:

A Missionary Messenger and Prayer Cycle in the home of every member of the W. M. S., instead of "every member of the church."

The sending of dues by those unable to attend be considered a count for attendance."

They also recommended a Visiting Committee to be appointed each month to assist in distributing leaflets and "in many other ways kindle missionary fires."

3260 calls were reported made in the interest of the church.

Miss Lois Kramer was appointed Superintendent of Literature.

At this time the Woman's Missionary Society were assuming these obligations:

The Bible Woman's Training School in Japan,
The Bible Women's Work—Japan and China,
The Kindergarten—Japan,
Salaries of our Missionaries—China and Japan,
All Italian Missions,
Work in Russia.

Rev. Butzbach on Sunday morning said: "It is the greatest miracle to make a child of God out of a heathen." What a glorious thing to have a part in this great work!

On the "Helps for Officers and Members," issued after the Convention by Mrs. John Hobson, at the request of the Executive Committee, we note,

"Our Motive! To Know, To Grow, To Glow, To Go,"

and the Ohio Branch has been Knowing, Growing, Glowing and Going since it began.

Mrs. Naumann said: "Dismiss the idea of the work as "chores to be done;" think of it rather, as a "Mission to fulfill."

Under our new leader, Mrs. John Hobson, the 1913 Convention at Greenspring showed that we were indeed branching out. This year's report showed 52 auxiliaries, and 1581 members, \$1000 raised for the China orphanage, the women's "extra gifts," amounting in all to \$4913.41, an average of \$3.39 per member.

In her address Mrs. Hobson said, "God wants us as well as our money."

Rev. A. Giuliani, of Milwaukee, told of the wonderful work being done among the Italians, and Rev. H. A. Kramer spoke on Sunday morning, in the beautiful grove on the edge of the town, on the "Dispensation of the Holy Spirit, which is the Dispensation of the Missionary Spirit."

Another feature was the original story by Miss Sarah Myers, and the encouraging report of the work among the young women, read by Miss Carrie Hudson, in the absence of Mrs. Lamale, the Secretary of Young Women's Work. She said twenty-four places took "days" with Miss Bauernfeind or other missionaries, and \$167.20 was raised for this purpose.

Woodbury-Trinity secured the Missionary Messenger pennant. Pretty good for a new society. Many new life members and honorary members were received, and gifts for support of orphans and Bible women in heathen lands, also days with Miss Bauernfeind. A wonderful lecture by Dr. Isaac Headland, Professor of Science seventeen years in the University of Peking, was enjoyed; his subject being, "Some By-Products of Missions."

An effort to encourage missionary work in the rural churches was made by organizing teams of six in the nearest auxiliary to present a missionary program at a public meeting held where no society exists, assisted by the pastor.

A Visiting Committee, and Distribution of Leaflets were points added to the Standard of Excellence. Publicity in local papers was recommended, also use of envelopes in the payment of dues.

The first society in Ohio to attain to our aim, "Every Woman a Member," was Toledo-City Park Ave., in 1914. Two new societies organized this year. West Salem made the largest increase in gifts. A decided gain in Tithing was shown, 463 being reported. 32 received diplomas for completing the reading course.

The missionaries present at the Convention, which was in Bucyrus, were Mrs. Sywulka from Nasa, Mwanza, East Africa, and Miss Edna Erffmeyer, our Missionary from Japan, each having been on her field for seven years.

A beautiful memorial service was in charge of Mrs. H. Bennett for the sisters who had been called home: "We listen not in vain for the sound of the voices that are still forever, though dead, they live and speak."

Mrs. John Hobson said in her address, "God's work must be done, and I will have a part in it' should be the determination of every Christian."

Departmental Conferences were very helpful in bringing out new thoughts and methods. Mrs. Beerbower was Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. Among the items in this report some were of special importance:

1. That a Visiting Committee be appointed each month whose duty it shall be to visit, not only the members of the Church, but Christless homes, women uninterested in Missions, and report the calls made and prayers offered.

2. Resolved that the Silver Anniversary be observed by organizing an auxiliary wherever there is none, and a Silver Free Will offering be taken in all local auxiliaries, the specific cause to be designated by the General Board. (Our goal for the Silver Offering was set at \$300 by the Ex. Com.)

3. That a banner be awarded to the W. M. S. spending the most days for our Missionary according to membership.

4. The special object for prayer during the year to be the Immigrant people.

5. Whereas, there is a general feeling that we have not enough news from the field or general Missionary information because of lack of space in the Missionary Messenger,

Resolved, that the Branch Executive Committee be authorized to publish each quarter, if practical, a Supplement at ten

cents per copy, containing more information of our missionary work.

These resolutions were adopted, the last one in response to the suggestion made by Mrs. John Hobson that a Branch paper be published. Mrs. Hobson was made Editor in Chief, and the other officers, associate editors. It was named, "The Agitator," a very suitable title. It has also been an "Educator," as well.

Mrs. H. C. Berger, who had served as President for six years, and Vice President for five, retired from the Executive Committee at this time, and a vote of thanks was extended to her by the Convention, with a prayer for God's blessing to rest upon her. Mrs. C. R. Beerbower was appointed Secretary of Literature for 1914—1915. Miss Georgia Wiest became a life member at this Convention.

In the beautiful Calvary Church, Cleveland, in 1915, assembled the largest gathering of any hitherto, of enthusiastic members of the Woman's Missionary Society, journeying from all parts of the state to assist in celebrating the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of their beloved Branch. The Silver Anniversary it was called and the Silver Offering was brought in. The Erie Branch W. M. S. held its meeting on the same date in the Emanuel Church, in Cleveland, and in a very happy exchange of visits, spent two evenings with the Ohio Branch; Friday evening the Erie Branch met with the Ohio Branch at the Calvary Church to hear Mrs. Lena Leonard Fisher speak on "The White Harvest Field," and on Saturday evening, the Ohio Branch very much enjoyed the wonderful pageant prepared by the sisters of the Emanuel Church showing the Missionary work of our church.

Mrs. Fisher also spoke on the study book, "The King's Highway." Miss Cora Haller was present to add inspiration, and Rev. and Mrs. Pace, Italian missionaries at Wellsville, told of their work there.

The greatest rejoicing was in the Anniversary celebration, "History in the Making," conducted by Mrs. E. M. Spreng, the General President of the W. M. S., Mrs. W. H. Hammer, General Little Herald Secretary, Mrs. W. L. Naumann, Mrs. H. C. Berger, Mrs. E. D. Paulin, and Mrs. John Hobson. They were assisted by charter members of the Missionary Society,

Rev. William Yost, Rev. George Johnson, Rev. G. Heinmiller, Mother and Father Messerschmidt of the Ebenezer Orphan Home, Miss Ella Horn, the General Treasurer of the W. M. S., and Miss Violet Burkett, who gave reminiscences of the opposition encountered and sacrifices made in the early days. Those present were made to feel more than ever their obligation to carry on the work so nobly begun. Mrs. S. Cocklin and Mrs. A. Vandersall, charter members, were spoken of in loving remembrance, and a letter of love and sympathy was sent to Mrs. Vandersall in her time of suffering.

Miss Clara Klinefelter was Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and the writer served on her committee, this being her first Missionary Convention and her first work in the Ohio Branch.

As to the Agitator, it was recommended, that its publication be continued semi-annually and that the first number be published as soon as possible after the Convention, thereby eliminating the extra expense of publishing the leaflet, "Points to put in Practice," and also the report of the Convention, Mrs. Hobson to be its editor. Every auxiliary was asked to secure as many subscribers as possible at ten cents per year, and enough money was authorized to be taken from the Branch Treasury Contingent Fund to send extra copies to congregations where there is no W. M. S.

Each Society was asked to secure a pennant to carry in a processional at the next Convention.

"Missionary Literature is Interesting,
Informing,
Inexpensive,
Indispensable,
for Intelligent Missionary work,"

hence continue to distribute literature.

Mrs. Hobson in her address said, "To get the Missionary Fire burning, put on the Oil of Information."

The crowning day of this gathering was on Sunday. A great crowd overflowed the spacious auditorium of the church. The audience was carried away by the inspiring address of Dr. Isaac T. Headland, on "America's part in making the Chinese Republic." In the evening a young woman of Cleveland sang

a song in Slovak, following the address of Rev. Richards, Superintendent of Baptist Missions among foreigners in Cleveland.

The Executive Committee was successful in securing a Field Secretary, in the person of Miss Lulu Witherup, of Akron, who did excellent work the following year, so far as opportunity offered.

The Quadrennial, having accepted the invitation of Ohio to meet in our state, was held in Marion in 1915. At this time the name of our children's society was changed to "Message Bearers."

The Pennant Processional at Upper Sandusky, in which 96 delegates took part, was a very successful opening of that gathering in 1916. Miss Susan Bauernfeind, home on furlough, was a guest, and our hearts were rejoiced to listen to the accomplishments of the work of the Bible Woman's Training School, of which she was the founder and head. Mrs. Diefenderfer's address on Mormonism was enough to arouse every woman to fight this evil. The petition to amend the Constitution of the United States to prohibit polygamy in this country was endorsed by the Convention. Miss Pauline Shearer, of Findlay, who has been better known in recent years as Mrs. C. S. Hunsinger, of Flat Rock, Superintendent of Toledo District of the Y. P. M. C., and whom God has recently called home, assisted in the program with some very effective readings. Mrs. John Hobson was elected representative to the Winona School of Missions.

Saturday evening the girls had charge of the entire service, led by Mrs. C. E. Lamale and Mrs. W. L. Naumann, their newly elected Secretary. Their program was supplemented by Miss Bauernfeind, their missionary. The Sunday sermon, by Rev. G. B. Kimmel, on "Stewardship" was most impressive, as may be evidenced by the Convention offering of \$1257.00. On Sunday afternoon a visit to the oldest Indian Mission in the United States was paid, and a short service held there.

A consecration service marked the closing of this Convention.

The Committee on Young Women's Work, headed by Mrs. Lamale, reported the following resolution:

"The Young Women of the Ohio Branch wish to have Miss Bauernfeind as their special missionary and pledge themselves

as her sole support; the committee also requests the privilege of designating for what object the surplus money if any, which this year amounts to \$79.50, shall be appropriated."

This request was sent to the General Board, to which the following response was received in a letter from L. Ethel Spreng, General Secretary:

"In response to the wish of the Young Women of Ohio Branch, I am glad to inform you that Miss Susan Bauernfeind of Japan has been assigned by the Woman's Board to Ohio for support. I have also to report the following resolution passed by the Woman's Board at their recent session:

'Whereas, there has been a surplus in the funds raised by the young women of one or two of the Branches for missionaries' salaries, and

'Whereas, the question has been raised as to the disposition of such,

'Resolved, That such surplus in any Branch be applied to the field in which the respective missionaries are engaged.'

Ohio certainly has done splendidly in raising a surplus in the salary of her missionary, and we congratulate you on your success. Keep it up."

Mention should be made of the beautiful Ohio Pennant, secured for the Convention by Mrs. Leroy Zachman, embodying the emblems of our State with those of the W. M. S. in a most happy manner.

In 1917 once more the Convention met in Lindsey, and enjoyed having present Rev. J. Wengerd, also Mrs. L. Nau-mann, the first president of the Lindsey society, who led the devotionals; Mrs. S. Burkett gave some reminiscences of early days, and eleven of the charter members responded to the roll call by Mrs. H. C. Berger.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Ramsey, of Cleveland, wishing to assume the entire support of our Miss Bauernfeind, the General Board assigned Miss Kathryn Schirmer to the Ohio Circles. In this connection, the following greeting was sent her—"We the girls of the Missionary Circles of Ohio will be with you this year in interest, in prayer and in giving of our best. We certainly wish you great success and God's blessing on your work." The General Board was requested to permit Miss Schirmer to visit

Ohio during the summer before leaving for Japan, her itinerary to be arranged by Mrs. Naumann, Circle Secretary.

It was decided to hold executive meetings of the local officers quarterly instead of monthly, as one of the points in the Standard of Excellence.

District Superintendents were appointed to work out plans for rallies, as follows:

Mrs. H. M. Coyle, Cleveland District,

Mrs. W. L. Naus, Columbus District,

Mrs. E. L. Weatherwax, Findlay District.

Bucyrus, Zion and McZena were newly organized. Resolutions honoring Mrs. E. E. Hunt, who had passed from us during the year, were passed. Miss Cole, of Circleville, won a solid gold W. M. S. pin for the best essay on tithing, and Mrs. Morris, of Wellsville, a silver pin for second best essay.

An innovation in the Circle work was the Circle supper, and the Saturday evening program by the Circle girls was beautifully conducted by them, in charge of Mrs. Naumann, their leader. Mrs. C. R. Beerbower, who had so ably served as Secretary of Literature and Vice President, was elected to the office of President, succeeding Mrs. John Hobson. In accepting her office, Mrs. Beerbower gave a touching tribute to Mrs. Hobson retiring from active service, after having been so faithful a president for five years. An old fashioned hand shaking service around the church—how it warmed our hearts and sent us forth with new resolves and high purpose to “Build the year on Prayer.”

Grand totals for this year with gain for the period covered by this Chapter show that the harvest is about ready to yield its increase:

Members, 1917—1834; 1910—1251; Gain—583.

Auxiliaries, 1917—61; 1910—42; Gain—19.

Offerings, 1917—\$7797.94; 1910—\$3615.47; Gain—\$4182.47
11 Circles, 34 Mission Bands, 37 Little Herald Rolls. Calls reported, 13135.

CHAPTER V.

1918—1922.

"Bringing in the Sheaves."

ALTHOUGH the years 1917 and 1918 were dark with war clouds, and many hearts in the Evangelical Association were heavy with sorrow or dread, the women of the Woman's Missionary Society did not forget the needs of those whose hearts are ever heavy with fear and whose minds are ever darkened with clouds of ignorance and superstition. At Findlay, Ohio, in June, they gathered with determination only greater and purpose more earnest to go forward, in the Master's name. The meeting was permeated with the thought of the Great War, and prayers for the boys over there, mingled with petitions to the Lord of all Nations to bring lasting peace into the world.

"By the love we bear toward our fathers, brothers, lovers, sons, by the long agony of trench and hospital; by the woe brought home to the hearts of mothers and by the orphaned children's need—hasten Thou the coming of the age of good will. Amen."

The theme of the Convention was John 21: 17—

"Lovest thou me? Feed my sheep."

Mrs. E. M. Spreng was with us, with one of her proteges from Japan, Miss Tatsu Jumonji, who was a center of interest among the girls. Rev. Paul Mayer, Missionary from Toyko, and Mrs. S. W. Eddy, of Medina, former missionary to India, opened the eyes of many to the real conditions in these dark lands, before the gospel comes in. Mrs. Eddy's address on "Tithing" surpassed any address ever given in Ohio Branch on this subject, and won many converts to this way of giving.

A rising vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Mabel Herrold for the help given in the programs prepared by her for the monthly meetings, as published in the Missionary Messenger. Loving tribute was paid to the departed sisters, Mrs. O. D. Swauk and Mrs. Nonnamaker.

Recommendations to Quadrennial were made as follows:

(1) In Circle work—

A place to report the offerings,

That the Happiness Box money be devoted to work of our missionary,

Regarding age of Circle Members.

(2) Also Intercessory Prayer Plan asked for.

Mrs. Beerbower suggested that the District Superintendents sub-divide the districts into groups, with group leaders and rallies; this plan has proven of great usefulness in organizing new societies and strengthening others.

One of the new features this year, was the separate session of the Young Women, since called the Circle Forum. Other impressive features were the music, in charge of Mrs. Stearns, of Cleveland, and the Consecration Service, in charge of Mrs. H. E. Klinefelter, of Marion.

The value of tithing began to be evident. In 1918, 522 tithers were reported, 5236 leaflets were distributed, and the amount of money raised passed the goal by over \$900.00, the total amount being \$8,994.88. And these were war times.

The following year, four Circles reached the Standard of Excellence, which had been set for them, reported over 500 members, and raised over \$2,000. The motto of the Annual Convention at Mansfield showed that the Executive Committee had learned the secret of successful work for God: "Tarry ye until ye be endued with power from on high." The President's message emphasized "God's call—the world's great need, Man's great opportunity; "Tarry," "Watch," "Pray." She encouraged an educational campaign on tithing. It was decided to launch a vigorous campaign for extension. "Agitators" were sent into fields where there are no Woman's Missionary Societies to arouse those who are indifferent; greater publicity was made use of, also co-operation with the Sunday School in presenting missionary facts to them. The women observed the "morning watch" more sacredly, pledge prayer cards were used for workers on the field. It was urged that a secretary of Literature be appointed in each auxiliary, that Thank Offering boxes be more generally used, and Vice Presidents urged to organize a tither's league and read a leaflet on tithing at each missionary meeting; the Ohio Branch set itself to reach the goal of the General W. M. S. of fifty per cent of its membership, tithers. As incentives to the achievement of these objects

a missionary magazine was given to each auxiliary reaching the standard of excellence, and a pennant to the one having the largest percentage of its members, tithers.

Four new societies were organized, Fremont reached the Standard of Excellence, the first to accomplish that feat. The splendid sum of over \$11,000 was brought into the Treasury. Rev. H. A. Kramer, Rev. A. Giuliani and Sarah Ernest Snyder brought messages of information and inspiration. Miss Georgia Wiest and Miss Ermal Ruhlman were among the products of the Mission Band and Circle who assisted in the work of the Convention.

A feeling of need of the development of the spiritual side of the work determined the Executive Committee to give more time to the devotional periods and secured Mrs. S. W. Eddy to lead the women at Bellevue, in 1920. She lead us into the secrets of the prayer life in a wonderful way. The motto: "Forward, 'Ye are my Witnesses' Forward" was hung across the church in an attractive way. This was a year of multiplying—eleven new societies were organized, making the number an even seventy; four societies reached the Standard of Excellence. The Circle raised over \$3,000, and the children nearly \$800.00; Miss Schultz's joyful face told the story before she gave the report, and no wonder for God had enabled us to give \$16,491.18 for him, an average of \$6.25 per member. In her address, Mrs. Beerbower said, "Let us go forward, lifting up Christ to a lost world." It was with regret that Ohio Branch had to permit Mrs. W. L. Naumann to conclude her official relation, which she felt compelled to do having been elected General Corresponding Secretary. A Vice President to have charge of Thank Offering, and one for Life Enlistment were elected. The Quadrennial assigned Sarah Kramer and Natalie Berner to the Message Bearers, as the Junior Y. P. A. was supporting Miss Lois Kramer.

Impressive was the moment when Mrs. Bennett unveiled Ohio's Service Flag, upon which were two stars, representing our daughters who had gone "Over There" to far away Japan. Mrs. Bennett read the poem which she had written on the occasion of the sailing of Sarah Kramer, which she named,

"CALLED TO THE FRONT"

1. *"White is the harvest, the reapers are few
Somebody heard the call,
Somebody caught a dear Voice that she knew
Somebody gave her all.*
2. *"Young hearts are waiting and long for truth,
Somebody heard the call;
Jesus is yearning to rescue the youth
Somebody gave her all.*
3. *"Jesus is Master of land and of sea;
Somebody's in His care;
All who will trust Him, forever are free,
Obstacles yield to prayer.*

Chorus:

*"Speed somebody today,
Somebody who loves the way;
With God's power defending,
And our prayers ascending,
Oh, speed somebody today."*

This was the year when our General President, Mrs. E. M. Spreng sailed for Japan and China. Greetings were sent to her from the Ohio Branch. A strong protest was filed with the Board of Publication and Board of Missions against changing the *Missionary Messenger* into a general church paper. The Forward Movement of our church having been launched the Ohio Branch sought to co-operate in every way possible with the objectives of this movement. The Ways and Means Committee suggested that the plan proposed by Mrs. C. R. Beerbower be carried out, "that District Superintendents, group secretaries and local Forward Movement leaders work together, and by prayer, public addresses, literature, team and committee work, or any method *God may suggest*, seek to promote these vital forces in our Christian Missionary service and the Forward Movement of our Church, and that we strive to reach the goal of ten per cent increase in members and attendance set by this movement." Our motto was made the watchword for the coming year, coupled with this thought, "They aim too low, who build beneath the stars."

Mrs. W. H. Munk became the new Circle Secretary. Mrs. Munk brought to this work strong qualities for leadership and a genius for organizing, she having organized five of the new auxiliaries reported in 1920. Miss Ruth Spreng, who had been Corresponding Secretary for several years, having moved to California, Miss Margaret Hudson of Napoleon, was called to take up this work during 1920.

Reports were received from all of the 75 Auxiliaries, of which three were newly organized. The gain in Tithers reached 106, and 67 of the Auxiliaries were then using the Study Books. Three objectives were before us for this year: The Membership Campaign, Ten per cent increase in attendance, and the Standard of Excellence.

At the time of the Convention, held at Akron, 1921, the United Evangelical Woman's Missionary Society of Ohio was also in session in that city, and friendly greetings were exchanged, Mrs. E. M. Spreng and Mrs. W. H. Hammer being our representatives and Miss Emma Messinger coming to us from them. This was the year Rose Fecker and Martha Schroedter went to the front. It was the privilege of the Ohio Branch to hear several thrilling messages from our missionaries on furlough, Miss Edna Erffmeyer Schwab, now gone home to be with her Master and Miss Natalie Berner, who helped us to see clearly the task and the joys of the kindergarten in Japan. Mrs. E. M. Spreng and Miss Ella Horn had recently returned from their trip to the Orient and as they talked to us, we traveled with them, saw the river boats and felt the thrill of being captured by bandits, all of which our missionaries at Shen-chow-fu may experience. In our President's message she said, "Make Christ and His service preeminent." "More than 900,000,000 souls have never heard of Christ." "The great world heart is aching—and God alone can heal it, and God alone is Light."

Dr. B. H. Niebel, Missionary Secretary of the United Evangelical Church, Harrisburg, made the journey to Akron to give two splendid addresses on Sunday. Some of his sayings: "The subject of missions is not a man-made propaganda." "Every need spells opportunity." "If we want to do much for foreign missions, we must *make the home base strong.*"

Intercession for the missionaries and their work marked

this session, and in the recommendations of the Ways and Means Committee was urged as a special phase of work to be stressed the coming year, they also recommended the publication of loose-leaf single page, illustrated sketches of the missionaries in compliance with Mrs. Beerbower's suggestion, for the use of the auxiliaries and Young Women's Circles. They asked for a circular regarding the Reading Course and report cards, also blanks for reports of the Circles and other departments. It was decided to secure pins to award to the Little Heralds who secured \$2 or more in their cradles, to send a recommendation to the Laymen's Convention to provide Boy's Study Classes on Missions and that the Executive Committee select historians to prepare a history of the Ohio Branch.

"For the Love of Christ Constraineth us," was the motto of the Branch in 1922. This was also the theme of Mrs. Beerbower's address, as she gave her parting message in the capacity of President of Ohio Branch. She said, "If old ways are effective, use them; if not, discard them." "Every program should be adapted to local needs, as shoes fit the feet." "As well try to run a ship without steam, as a missionary society without prayer." Throughout the time of the Convention, Prayer and programs were emphasized, together with the live advertising of the use of literature by Mrs. John Hobson, then Secretary of Literature. Rev. George Epp, General Missionary Secretary of the Evangelical Association, with his stereopticon views of our missionary fields, literally opened our eyes to their needs as never before. Rev. and Mrs. Wahl, formerly Miss Elizabeth Schempp, were with us during the Cleveland meeting, plainly setting before the members of the Convention the needs of China as a Mission field. Bishop Seager preached on Sunday morning, using the text: Luke 10: 23. "True intercession is a sacrifice." "It is a perpetuation of Calvary in our own lives." "Christ says, 'I send you forth.'" It was a great day.

With much regret, the Branch was compelled to lose its beloved president. Mrs. John Hobson was elected and again accepted this great task. Mrs. H. E. Williamson, who had ably served as Vice President and Tithing Secretary was very ill at this time and unable to attend the Convention, and not long after, our Heavenly Father took her to be with Him.

Life Enlistment was made a regular Department and a goodly number of our young people were constrained to offer themselves for special service. Splendid reports were received from all the departments, showing growth and intensive development.

One of the new features was the dividing of the work for the Young Women into districts, under the supervision of the Secretary, Mrs. Munk.

The spirit of our women is shown by the following resolutions:

"An effort on the part of each member to fill the vacant pews at the church services by

I. Inviting unsaved friends,

II. Personal conversation

III. Search for boys and girls who are growing up without any religious training, who might be brought into the Sunday School and Church. 'Our Lord laid plans for world-wide evangelization but He never missed an opportunity to win an individual.'

"That tithing be taught as obligatory and not optional."

The reading course for this year consisted of the two study books, "Building with India," and "The Trend of the Races," The Missionary Messenger, and two of the following books: Wayside Sowing, W. M. S. Doings in Japan, Fifty Missionary Stories, Mary Christopher. The work of the Secretary of Literature in each auxiliary was defined to include librarian of the Missionary library of the auxiliary, campaign manager for subscribers to the Missionary Messenger, Dendo Jo Gakko and Missionary Review of the World, and to circulate leaflets on missions. Our aim, as set forth on the program of this memorable gathering was "Vision, Inspiration, Practical Help."

Ohio Branch at this time had 39 active Circles with 821 members who this year raised \$3307.48. There were 47 Mission Bands and 1168 babies on the Little Herald Rolls. 224 were enrolled in the Reading Course and 482 Study Books were used.

Nine Auxiliaries reached the Standard of Excellence. 78 Auxiliaries reported, six of them being new. There were 3130

members, 20,779 calls made, five sisters passed on to their reward. Five Societies collected over \$100.00 each in their Thank-offering boxes and the total amount raised for missions was \$16,681.79. The Auxiliary at Akron reported a gain in average attendance of 130%; Bucyrus, Salem had 150% membership, that is more members than there were women in the church and Nellie reported 75% of its members, tithers. Truly God had been good to us.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children." Isa. 54: 13.

CHAPTER VI.

By Mrs. A. D. Wiest.

The Children's Part.

IT WAS not long after the organization of the missionary forces of the church by the women that these same women felt the call of a similar work for their children. It was only a natural result. The fire of missionary intelligence which was destined to reach around the world, could not help but burn brightly in the homes from whence it started. They had caught the vision of future missionaries and so in 1885 at the first annual convention at Lindsey, Ohio, the executive committee was authorized to prepare a constitution for Mission Bands and during the year seven bands were organized. At the sixth annual meeting in Cleveland in 1890, Mrs. W. H. Hammer was appointed to prepare programs for the Mission Bands, she being the first general Superintendent.

The same year in Ohio Branch, Mrs. Hammer was elected Superintendent of Ohio Mission Bands also. The first Band organized was at Lindsey. Mrs. E. M. Spreng was the leader and her Sunday School class of girls were the first members. Their first president, Violet Burkett, says they studied "Japan" and all were enthusiastic about that foreign field and had great hopes of what they might some day do there. Following is a list of the charter members: Urzella Burkett, (deceased), Violet Burkett Hoff, Hattie Burkett Engler, Gertrude Boyer, Hattie Bowersox, Idella Boyer, Erdine Boyer Arnold, Flora Boyer Smith, Emma Cochran Auxter, (deceased), Lydia Ganer, (deceased), Ida Overmeyer Nicholas, Bertha Woland Loose, Emma Woland, Hattie Murphy Ireland, (deceased), Sarah Overmeyer Smith, Gladys Overmeyer Gallup, Edna Walters Hawk, Emma Notestine Roberts.

In 1891 Flat Rock and Oakdale-Cleveland, organized. In 1892, Miss Bessie Yost represented the Oakdale Mission Band and read a paper on "The Model Mission Band" that was much

appreciated and was an inspiration for better work. In 1893 there were seven bands, having 239 members and Mrs. E. Hoffman was elected Superintendent. The inspiration was growing and in 1894 the Bands raised \$229.94 with Fremont giving \$157.98 of that amount. That year Columbus, Akron, Cleveland-Madison Ave., Tiffin, Circleville and Findlay were added to the list. Money was not the only goal set for the children, but they were being taught to earn their money and become "systematic and proportionate" givers.

The following lines are quoted from the resolutions of that year, "While intellectual development is so necessary, we recommend that the spiritual receive due attention with a view to the salvation and the early consecration of our youth." Programs were prepared by Miss Bessie Yost and appeared in the Missionary Messenger which were to be carried out by Ohio Bands. Self denial and the observance of Thank-Offering Day was recommended as a part of the training for the boys and girls.

In 1897 the children were given the support of some of the Japanese preachers. At the convention of 1898, held at Benton Ridge, some one said, "The hope of our church is our children," and the co-operation of the mothers was needed and appealed to. "Feed my lambs" was the keynote of the convention with reference to the Mission Bands.

The years 1885-1898 inclusive, were directed to the enrolling and training of all children of school age. But the same overflowing enthusiasm of the W. M. S. women was not satisfied and in 1898 the Cradle Roll Department was instituted. Again our dear, steadfast, loving Mrs. W. H. Hammer was put in charge of enrolling all the babies in the Cradle Roll of the W. M. S. It was carried on in connection with the Mission Band until 1908, and is referred to later. Miss Rose George for four years Mission Band Superintendent, now became Mrs. A. D. Wiest and the mother of Miss Georgia Wiest and Mrs. Hammer enrolled Georgia as the first cradle roll baby in December, 1898. Referring to the separate table, the varied and increasing report is given year by year with the names of the Superintendents or Managers. In 1905 the "True and Blue" mite boxes were supplied for the children's use. In 1906 the Mission Band benediction, "Fear not, little flock, for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom" was adopted. Funds for a



MRS. W. H. HAMMER
1890-1893



MRS. A. D. WIEST
1894-1900—1914-1926



MRS. L. B. MYERS
1904-1908

Mission Band Leaders



MRS. PRICKETT
1908-1910



SARAH MYERS TITTLEBAUGH
1911-1914



MRS. LYDIA BALLI SEITH
1926-1927

Mission Band Leaders

new chapel in Japan were raised in 1906-1907 and Ohio participated in that plan. Butler, Independence and Plympton were organized this year.

In 1908 Lindsey was reorganized and Kenmore was added to the list of Ohio Bands. At this convention, Birthday Cards and promotion exercises for Cradle Roll to Mission Bands were planned for. From this year on the Cradle Roll was a separate organization with a Superintendent of its own, and its own objectives.

1910 was a banner year for Ashland, she having now the silk banner prepared for the best general record, but in 1911 until 1916, inclusive, Warren, Pa., held the banner for having the largest amount of money per member. At the Quadrennial convention in 1914, the name "Mission Band" was changed to "Message Bearers" and was thus carried until 1924, when it was again changed to "Mission Band."

1915 brought in the Standard of Excellence and meant a real challenge for real effort on the part of the local Mission Band leaders, but it spelled new results, which were increasingly happy. In 1917, Akron raised the largest amount of money per member, 361 per cent. Eleven Bands reached the Standard of Excellence. It was granted at this convention to give each child who had \$2 or more in his Thank-offering box, a Mission Band pin. A prize was also offered to the Mission Band that had the largest percentage of Sunday school scholar members of the band.

In 1919, Mt. Cory reported the most money per member.

At the quadrennial in 1919, the General Society was requested to change the name back to "Mission Bands," and to change the name of "Secretary" to "Manager," but this was not granted until 1926.

Napoleon received the pennant in 1920 and five new societies were added to the Ohio roll. In 1921, ninety-seven children earned pins for having \$2 or more in their boxes and Napoleon again carried home the pennant.

1922 was a banner year for Ashland Trinity and Perrysburg, Amanda and Moline were organized. A new building was going up in Japan in 1923 and the children were busy selling bricks and tile, raising \$442.89 for this purpose. Butler, Akron-Madison Ave. and Lucky were the new societies for this year.

1924 marked a time of radical changes and decided enlargement for the children. Until this time the Mission Bands were supporting Japan work almost entirely, but now the appeal is coming from every corner of Evangelical Missions and includes work for children in all home and foreign fields. A special Kindergarten worker in Latvia, Mrs. Henrickson was given to the Mission Bands for support. A change was also made in the Standard of Excellence making it more rigid and Butler was the only band to reach it. The reward for boxes was also changed and instead of receiving a M. B. pin for having \$2 or more in their boxes, each child who had \$5 or more in the box, received an honor certificate with provisions for seals each ensuing year for four years. The children are becoming interested in sending boxes to the missionaries and this year, (1924), boxes worth \$283.35 were sent in that way. The "Gem" is also a new and much asked for help and the first year 229 were taken in Ohio Branch. Gibsonburg, Marshallville and West Salem were new in 1924.

During the few previous years enlarged pictures of our kindergarten missionaries in Japan were given to the Band having the largest percentage of the Sunday-school scholars in the Mission Band. The first was of the two Misses Kramer and Miss Natalie Berner and was permanently located with Napoleon and the second one of the Misses Kramer and Miss Gertrude Kuechlich was located with the Trinity Band. In 1925, Huron, a new Band, received the pennant and it was located with them.

The value of missionary boxes this year was \$301.46. The Mission Band colors were changed to Cream and Gold. Summer Christmas Trees were a new incentive and the proceeds from them were sent to our African Mission. All pennants were permanently located and Chinese Cash given to children having \$2 or more in their boxes.

Space forbids giving the names of a host of loyal Mission Band leaders who have faithfully worked in their local Bands. The biography of the most of our missionaries, shows that they had some training in childhood that directed their minds to the needs of the world. Following are tables giving names of Branch Superintendents and amounts of money raised from year to year. These tables do not record the patient toil of the leader

of the monthly meetings, the anxiety for the children, the pondering and studying over a program to make it worth-while and attractive. The dealing with restless, alert boys and girls are all labor and results which are never reported. To them, is due the credit for results in figures which all read.

Mrs. W. H. Hammer.....	1891	\$	
Mrs. W. H. Hammer.....	1892		15.92
Mrs. W. H. Hammer.....	1893		59.05
Mrs. E. Hoffman	1894		229.94
Miss Rose George	1895		76.25
Miss Rose George	1896		223.32
Miss Rose George	1897		172.22
Miss Rose George	1898		163.03
Mrs. A. D. Wiest.....	1899		130.01
Miss Mabel Stull	1900		117.29
Miss Mabel Stull	1901		146.34
Miss Mabel Stull	1902		233.06
Miss Mabel Stull	1903		181.51
Miss Mabel Stull	1904		337.01
Mrs. L. B. Myers.....	1905		232.21
Mrs. L. B. Myers.....	1906		215.42
Mrs. L. B. Myers.....	1907		220.83
Mrs. J. M. Prickett.....	1908		239.41
Mrs. J. M. Prickett.....	1909		292.60
Mrs. J. M. Prickett.....	1910		290.01
Mrs. Edna Gamertsfelder	1911		200.90
Miss Sarah Myers	1912		163.05
Miss Sarah Myers	1913		233.56
Miss Sarah Myers	1914		244.47
Miss Sarah Myers	1915		295.20
Miss Sarah Myers	1916		281.22
Mrs. A. D. Wiest.....	1917		451.27
Mrs. A. D. Wiest.....	1918		406.16
Mrs. A. D. Wiest.....	1919		573.14
Mrs. A. D. Wiest.....	1920		798.87
Mrs. A. D. Wiest.....	1921		1181.56
Mrs. A. D. Wiest.....	1922		850.07
Mrs. A. D. Wiest.....	1923		1239.97
Mrs. A. D. Wiest.....	1924		895.91

Mrs. A. D. Wiest.....	1925	1048.41
Mrs. A. D. Wiest.....	1926	1257.73
Miss Lydia Balli	Jan. 1927	821.00 (six months)

CRADLE ROLL

The Cradle Roll of the Woman's Missionary Society was begun in 1898 and Georgia Wiest was the first baby enrolled. After being managed by the Mission Band Superintendent for ten years, it was made a separate department in 1908 with Mrs. L. B. Myers as Superintendent. Mrs. Myers did not complete the year and Mrs. E. D. Paulin was appointed to take her place and has since been elected each succeeding year for 18 years. Mrs. Paulin is enthusiastic and tireless and patient in her ambitions for the babies and it has been a thriving and blessed addition to the Ohio Branch. The name was officially changed to "Little Heralds" in 1911.

Each Auxiliary was asked to appoint a Little Herald Secretary to correspond with the Branch Officer. The money raised by the babies was appropriated to a children's ward in a hospital in China.

In 1920 Mrs. Paulin asked for birthday cards and the Branch Secretary was instructed to prepare envelopes which would give the Little Heralds recognition in the convention offerings.

In 1921, 107 were promoted from the Little Heralds to the Mission Bands, 809 visits were made and 9902 cards and leaflets were sent out. In 1922, the Little Heralds contributed to the support of the Day Nurseries in Japan.

In 1923, the Home Department was added to the work of the Little Herald Department, this being for the benefit of mothers or others who were unable to attend the regular meetings of the missionary society. From year to year the request was made that the two departments be carried on separately and at the quadrennial in 1926, the Home Department was discontinued.

The Little Heralds began sending in their separate reports in 1911 and the following is a report of the steady increase they have made financially:

1911.....	\$ 28.75
1912.....	21.90



MRS. E. D. PAULIN
Sec'y. of Little Heralds
1908-1927



First Cradle Roll Member
1898

1913.....	57.44
1914.....	66.16
1915.....	106.57
1916.....	116.57
1917.....	146.29
1918.....	149.34
1919.....	393.57
1920.....	413.00
1921.....	474.00
1922.....	463.14
1923.....	531.75
1924.....	562.28
1925.....	515.00
1926.....	254.33 (six months)

At the Quadrennial Meeting in 1926, the Herald Kindergarten in Togane, Japan, was given to the Little Heralds for their new objective. It will cost \$2500.00, built in Japanese style and all the Evangelical babies of the United States will be called upon to assist in the building of it.

"Would you lift the world from sorrow?

Help a child;

Would you build for the to-morrow?

Lead a child.

If you wish to speed the day,

When your Lord all hearts shall sway,

There is not a surer way:

Win a child.

"Do you long the news to carry?

Tell a child!

God provides the emissary,

Send a child.

Grieve not if it ne'er shall be,

You can go across the sea:

Right at hand may be the key—

Teach a child."

—M. S. Hudson.

CHAPTER VII.

WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

QUITE early in the history of the Woman's Missionary Society the need of a place for the older girls and boys was felt. In some places the young girls joined the W. M. S., but often they did not feel free to do so or to express themselves in that organization. Miss Alice Niederhauser, a young woman under appointment to China as a missionary, was the means in God's hands of opening the eyes of our women to a plan that would at once appeal to the hearts of our young women and at the same time further the missionary cause. In 1911, Miss Niederhauser was present at the Convention of the Ohio Branch and suggested her plan. This was also the year of the Quadrennial at Holton, Kansas. In our Branch and also at the Quadrennial her plan was adopted and the resolution to organize Young Women's Missionary Societies was put into effect. Miss Niederhauser's plan was substantially as follows:

As the basis of our missionaries' salaries is about \$1.50 per day, the "Spend-a-Day" plan calls for each young woman to pay at least for one day's salary annually. Such contributor to designate on a Calendar card the day of the year to be spent with her missionary on the field, giving the reason for selecting the day, and sending also on the card a personal message to the missionary. These cards and the money are sent to the Branch Secretary, who arranges them and in turn, through the General Secretary, forwards them to the missionary so that each morning, as she turns the pages, she may know who is her helper for that day. In order to keep in close touch with the work, the missionary writes occasional letters to each "Spend-a-Day" friend. During the year 1911, the response to this Spend-a-Day plan was so general, even before any Young Woman's Societies were organized, that the Quadrennial assigned the missionaries to the different Branches and to Ohio was given the high privilege of joining with the Erie Branch in

We are indebted to Mrs. W. H. Munk for much of the material for this chapter.



MRS. C. E. LAMALE
1912-1916



MRS. W. L. NAUMANN
1916-1920



MRS. W. H. MUNK
1920-1925



MRS. FIRESTONE
1925-1927

Branch Secretaries of Y. P. M. C.



MRS. E. G. FRYE
Cleveland District



MISS NONA BLACK
Toledo District



MISS HULDA WALZ
Canton District



MISS GOLDIE NOGGLE
Columbus District

1926--1927
Branch District Secretaries of Y. P. M. C.

the support of Miss Susan Bauernfeind, the founder of the Bible Woman's Training School in Toyko, Japan.

The first year in Ohio, before this arrangement was made, the money raised on this plan was for the support of Miss Niederhauser and was sent in to Mrs. L. H. Seager, the first General Secretary, amounting to \$93.80. Before the Young Woman's Circles, as these societies came to be called, were generally organized, some young woman in each Woman's Missionary Society, or a woman with a "young" heart, was appointed Secretary of Young Women's Work, who solicited "days" from the members of the W. M. S., the Sunday School classes and the congregation.

"Service for His sake" was adopted as the motto and the beautiful creed, suggested by the words of Miss Niederhauser, as follows, has been woven into the lives of hundreds of our girls:

"I will be true, for there are those who trust me,
I will be pure for there are those who care;
I will be strong, for there is much to suffer,
I will be brave, for there is much to dare.
I will be friend to all, the foe, the friendless,
I will be giving, and forget the gift;
I will be humble, for I know my weakness
I will look up, and laugh, and love, and lift."

The first Secretary of Young Woman's Work in the Ohio Conference Branch was Mrs. C. E. Lamale, then living in Napoleon, Ohio, the wife of the pastor, Rev. C. E. Lamale. In answer to a letter asking for historical data connected with the beginning of this Department of the work, Mrs. Lamale says:

"I wrote to each field in the Ohio Conference, very often bothered the minister's wife to get me in touch with young people through a Sunday School class or otherwise; the Spend-a-Day Calendar blanks were used and a printed letter from our missionary with whom the individual or class spent a day was sent. It was a real pioneer work, several circular letters and many personal ones were sent each year." Mrs. Lamale's reports show a remarkable increase and from this small beginning has come the Circle work as we have it today, in all its strength and beauty, the young life of our church at work for others.

Spend-a-Days were solicited from each Woman's Missionary Society and gradually the way opened for the organization of Circles, through the interest the women took in the young people of their church realizing the importance of having an organization for the older young people.

Tiffin Circle was the first to report to the Branch and has had an inspiring history. It is still in a flourishing condition and was the second Circle to win the Winona School of Missions Award, lacking but one point of winning the first. Bellevue and Akron-Calvary soon followed and have both continued in the good work, except for a short time when Bellevue disbanded, only to reorganize a few years later after having worked in connection with the Woman's Missionary Society, during this time. Miss Nona Black, of this Circle is now Secretary of Circles for Toledo District, filling the place left vacant by the death of Mrs. C. S. Hunsinger, who was suddenly taken from us in December, 1926. Akron-Calvary has won the Winona award twice.

In 1916, at the request of the Executive Committee, Mrs. Lamale arranged for a Young Woman's Evening at the Branch Convention, the entire program including the devotional service being conducted by them. They were fortunate in having their own missionary, Miss Susan Bauernfeind, to assist by speaking of her work in the Sunrise Kingdom. During the previous year, the Circles of Ohio and Young Women's Secretaries had raised more than 365 calendar "Days"; hence at this Convention asked that hereafter they have Miss Bauernfeind as their special missionary and pledged themselves as her sole support. This request was granted and our Circles had consequently the privilege of helping to promote the great work of training a number of young Japanese women to become leaders in their own country in spreading the good news.

This was also the time when Mrs. Lamale on account of failing health had to relinquish the work, and it fell into the capable hands of Mrs. W. L. Naumann, then living in Tiffin, and in the historic old District Parsonage where the family lived during Rev. Naumann's term of Presiding Elder, Mrs. Naumann gave much time, thought and energy to the further developing of this work. Other Circles were organized over the Conference and the work continued to prosper. Warren, Penn-

sylvania, then in the Ohio Conference, had their young women organized locally some time before they reported to the Branch and have always been keenly interested. We do not have the space to mention the other fine groups of consecrated young people, but we deeply appreciate all of them.

Mrs. Naumann prepared the first Standard of Efficiency, wrote a leaflet on, "How to Organize," originated the yearly "pointers," the Circle Supper, the Circle Forum, Easter Consecration service and the idea of group rallies.

The Saturday evening service given by the Young people, became one of the most interesting features of the Branch Conventions. A pennant was given to the Woman's Missionary Society securing the largest number of days according to membership, in places where there was no Circle, a prize which Stoutsville held for many years. After 1917 the Ohio Circles had to relinquish their Miss Bauernfeind to Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Ramsey, of Cleveland, who wished to assume her entire support and the General Board assigned the support of Miss Kathryn Schirmer, of Holton, Kansas, under appointment to Japan, to the Ohio Circles. The girls and other friends of the Spend-a-Day plan, showed their loyalty by rallying at once to this new venture and gave to the support of Miss Schirmer the same love and devotion as had been given to Miss Bauernfeind.

In 1919, at the Branch Convention, the Committee on Young Women's Work, recommended that, as an incentive to the Circles to do the very best possible work along all lines, a representative from the Circle making the best general record during the coming year, be sent to the Winona School of Missions. In 1920, the expenses to be paid from the Branch Treasury. This was adopted and in 1920 the Findlay Circle, having made the most points, secured the much coveted reward, and sent its delegate to Winona the following year. This splendid plan has produced remarkable results, having been continued ever since, giving the Circles a wonderful reward for which to strive and at the same time giving to some outstanding girl each year the advantages of the training and development coming from the associations of Winona.

By 1920 we had 33 Circles, 1278 "days" were subscribed and the total raised that year was \$3247.00. In the meantime, Mrs. Naumann had removed to Cleveland and had been elected

General Corresponding Secretary at the 1919 Quadrennial, so that for lack of time to devote to the work, she was forced to sever her active connection with it in the Ohio Branch. It was with regret for she loved it. She says:

"I traveled a great deal to organize and stimulate Circles. My correspondence was great, but it was a delight. It was a joy to write and receive letters, many of them very personal and precious from many young women and Circle Secretaries. I spent more time and thought on Ohio Circle work than any other missionary work I ever undertook and I believe I enjoyed it most too."

The Ohio Branch was fortunate in securing as the successor to Mrs. Naumann, Mrs. W. H. Munk, who was elected Branch Secretary at Bellevue in 1920, and headquarters were moved back to the District Parsonage at Tiffin where the family lived during Rev. Munk's term as Presiding Elder of that District. It was soon after this that young men were admitted to full membership and the name of the organization was changed to "Young People's Missionary Circle."

Mrs. Munk writes: "The work was developed along the same lines as our predecessors used and grew rapidly in interest and gifts. We handled Circle literature and supplies and had charge of a table of suitable material at the Conventions. Life Enlistment work was also taken care of and the Easter Consecration Service urged upon each Circle; each year, brought fine reports of life service recruits and members won for Christ. This service was often held at vesper time and was very impressive. Later on we were relieved of this responsibility but always assisted as much as possible.

"A loose leaf record book, letter file and many office helps were introduced to lighten detail work, but one great disadvantage was the lack of report blanks for our yearly report for display at the Convention, for Mrs. Seager's report and our record book; these were home made and a very tedious task. Later we were furnished with fine printed blanks which lightened the labor connected with the strenuous pre-convention days.

"Spend-a-Day receipts were sent in as personal a way as possible, often sent direct with the missionary's letter, and with subscriber's name and address written, and a personal note added; hard work, but it paid. Later we asked an interested

leader to personally deliver these to her society. Several circular letters and scores of personal letters and cards were sent out to each Circle each year, also packages containing yearly pointers and goals, convention reports, calendar blanks, semi-annual Agitators, Best Method ideas from Winona and our own Conventions.

Tithing was stressed and tithers' rolls advocated, leaflets and dialogues were used and many won to the Scriptural way of supporting the Gospel.

"The Circle Forum, supper and Saturday evening service at the Convention each year, continued to interest the young people and they looked forward to the time with joy, each society sending as many members as possible besides the delegate.

"Beautiful blue and gold pennants were given each Circle reaching the Standard of Efficiency and the winner of the Winona School of Missions Award was announced at this service as a fitting climax to the interesting evening with our young people.

"At the 1922 Convention at Cleveland, the Executive Committee, at the request of the Branch Secretary, permitted her to choose a District Secretary of Circles for each Presiding Elder District in the Conference. Mrs. J. S. Ewald, Cleveland, Ohio, Miss Goldia Noggle, Circleville, Ohio and Mrs. C. S. Hunsinger, Flat Rock, Ohio, consented to serve. Plans were finished and put into operation, proving very successful because of the fine co-operation of these faithful helpers. Mrs. J. S. Ewald, who had rendered excellent service, resigned on account of other duties in 1924 and Mrs. E. G. Frye, Cleveland, wife of Rev. E. G. Frye, Editor of the Evangelical-Messenger, succeeded her. This same year Ohio Conference was divided into four Districts and Mrs. Ida Hoff, Akron, was appointed as the additional Secretary of Circles and the work again reorganized with Mrs. Frye, Cleveland District, Miss Goldia Noggle, Columbus District, Mrs. Ida Hoff, Akron District and Mrs. C. S. Hunsinger, Toledo District. At this time we were happy to welcome three Circles from the Erie Branch.

"We wish to express our appreciation of the splendid co-operation of these faithful assistants who sacrificed much of

time and energy to help carry on this rapidly growing work, not forgetting to mention the utter unselfishness of Mrs. Hunsinger, who later died in the midst of her beloved service.

"Numerous local and group rallies were held each year and in 1924 arranged twenty appointments for Miss Kathryn Schirmer, who was home on furlough from Japan. Nine of these were Circle Rallies with afternoon and evening sessions and were times of information and inspiration. The folks were given an opportunity to get acquainted with Miss Schirmer at the lunch and social hour and to look at her book of snap shots of life in the sunrise kingdom and admire the beautiful curios and Japanese garments. At the eleven other appointments, she spoke at local and group Woman's Missionary Society rallies and while in Toledo, was the speaker-guest at a luncheon given by the Federation of Missionary Societies. Funds were also gathered to purchase a Stereopticon lantern with seventy Bible slides which Miss Schirmer selected and took with her upon her return to Japan.

"Other missionaries who spoke at our rallies were Mrs. Edna Erffmeyer Schwab, Rev. A. Giuliani and Rev. G. Busacca.

"Many Circles were visited, twenty-six in one year, and no opportunity was lost to present the work so dear to our heart. Many letters were received from splendid young folk and still treasured along with their continued friendships; some are Missionaries in home and foreign fields, others are ministers and ministers' wives, many are faithful in the home church, while some of the most faithful have been called home. Younger members from the Mission Band are taking their places and thus the work goes on.

"The following Branch officers serving as District Secretaries of Circles are products of this organization:

Mrs. C. S. Hunsinger, Mrs. Ida Hoff, Misses Goldia Noggle, Hulda Walz and Nona Black.

"We are glad to have had some small part in the splendid Young People's Missionary Circle Work and to have served in the thriving Ohio Conference Branch, the largest in the former Evangelical Association, with its fifty-four Circles and large gifts and regret that health conditions prevented further

"Service for His Sake" in this Department of Kingdom Building."

In 1922 Miss Mary Nippert, missionary to the Italians at Milwaukee, was also assigned to the Ohio Circles and to these were added, in 1925, our own Miss Vera Stull, missionary to Red Bird, besides Miss Marie Hasenpflug, head of the Girls' High School at Changsha, China, formerly supported by the Ohio United Branch.

At the time of the merger with the former Ohio United Branch, the Circle members of the Ohio Branch numbered 1058, having 304 tithers, in forty active Circles and raised that year (1925) \$4940.20.

The Circles earning the Winona School of Missions award, are as follows, with the delegate from each:

1920	Findlay-St. Paul's	Miss Mabel Powell
1921	Tiffin	Gladys Dayton (Breyman)
1922	Napoleon	Miss Ruth Curdes and Miss Ruth Mengerink
	Greenspring	Miss Ruth Dietzel
1923	Akron-Calvary	Miss Helen Sawders
	Circleville	Evelyn Imler (Carter)
	(This was a tie.)	
1924	Akron-Calvary	Miss Ada Marquis
	Flat Rock Orphan Home	Miss Leta Gearhart
	(Also a tie.)	
1925	Circleville	Miss Ada Burgett
1926	Fremont	

Since their organization in 1912 by the Spend-a-Day plan, Happiness Boxes and otherwise, the young people have raised \$19,777.18 and in 1926, after joining forces with those of the former United Branch, under the leadership of our new Circle Secretary, Mrs. F. A. Firestone, the Circles of Ohio presented a front of 59 organizations, 1693 members, 606 tithers, 26 reaching the Standard of Efficiency and brought in the splendid offering of \$8,136.55.

In recent years our young people are observing Self Denial Week and Day of Prayer in connection with the Woman's Missionary Society; through Oratorical contests and Missionary

Pageants they are presenting missionary truths in so attractive a way as to reach the most hardened hearts; by the continuance of Spend-a-Day Calendar cards, now costing \$2.00 each, on account of the increased cost of living, they are gathering increasing funds, and so goes marching on our splendid army of young folks, furnishing recruits for every field of useful endeavor wherever their Captain leads the way.



MISS SUSAN BAUERNFEIND

Founder of
Tokyo Bible School
Japan



MARY GAMERTSFELDER



MRS. MARY SCHNEIDER SYWULKA

Ministering in Africa

CHAPTER VIII.

OUR MISSIONARIES

MISS SUSAN BAUERNFEIND

Miss Susan Bauernfeind, the first missionary assigned to the Circles of Ohio, was born in a log house in Goodhue County, Minnesota. She is a graduate of Northwestern College. She was the first representative of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church to go to the foreign field, in company with Miss Anna M. Kammerer, (now the wife of Rev. C. E. Ranck). She landed in Japan on October 10, 1900. After arriving there she and her companion did real pioneer work among the Japanese. She early saw the need of specialized training for Japanese women if the homes of Japan were to be reached and evangelized, and in 1904 organized the Bible Woman's Training School with six students. It is now called the Toyko Bible School and is housed in a beautiful brick building. It now has classes, besides the Bible Course, in music, English Day School and English Night School.

During her furloughs in this country, Miss Bauernfeind has become known to many of our women and girls and more than one of our workers on the field has felt God's call through her personality. The good accomplished through the influence of such a life will never be realized until that last great day when all things shall be made known.

MISS MARY GAMERTSFELDER

Mary Gamertsfelder was born and spent her early years among the hills in Ohio. She obtained her elementary education in rural school, spent a few years in a village high school, then taught in country schools.

Six happy years were spent in our North Central College where, with a sister and brother, she graduated in 1893. A nurse's training course was the next ambition. This, with a year of medical study, she obtained in Chicago. She had one year of Bible study at Moody Institute. For a few years she was a home missionary among the lumbermen of Michigan and Wisconsin.

She early yielded her life to God and with her conversion came the impression for service in God's great harvest fields. She ever had this in view, while preparing for her life work. India was the field to which she felt led, but the way did not open to go there. When the way did open to go to Africa, she accepted the opportunity. Her Heavenly Father has always been very real to her and her confidence in Him has carried her through many hard and trying places.

Her work in Africa has been that of teacher and preacher. She has been mother to the girls who come to stay on the mission station during the school term. Often she has had oversight of the makings of the sundried brick and the erection of buildings. The ten out-stations and schools where the teachers are also preachers have been a great care. There has been also the care of the sick and the dying.

She is now working at Ruiru, Kenya Colony, East Africa. She has had good health in all the twenty-four years of her work in Africa. In her letters there has always been a note of joy in being able to be of service in her Master's vineyard.

MARIE SCHNEIDER-SYWULKA

Consecrated to God before her birth by Christian parents, Marie Schneider was born at Hazelton, Pennsylvania. She was converted at the age of nine and joined the Evangelical Church at Hazelton soon after her conversion. From a little child, it seemed perfectly natural for her to help others; she especially seemed to be interested in those who were sick.

When she was seventeen, the father died, and Marie, being the eldest in a family of five children, worked for several years trying to help her widowed mother keep her little flock together. About five years later, she entered the training school at Charity Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa. After her graduation she nursed at Akron for several years and became a member of Calvary Church, also President of the Woman's Missionary Society. The call to the foreign field came to her and she talked to Mrs. E. M. Spreng, who thought it might be best for her to go to China, but after much earnest prayer, she felt that her place was in Africa; this was partly through the influence of a friend, Miss Alma Doering, who also went to the Dark Continent. After making this decision, Marie attended Moody Bible

Institute in Chicago for several months and then sailed with several others for Africa under the Africa Inland Mission, it being undenominational. She still belongs to our Calvary Church at Akron.

She was married in Africa to Emil Sywulka, whom she had met at the Bible Institute in Chicago. They have three children, all born in Africa; Paul, the eldest, is in school at Wheaton, Ill. and expects to return to Africa as a missionary after he has finished his education; the others, Edward and Betty, are at Kijabe, Africa, in school about 400 miles from their mother and father. During the war, Mrs. Sywulka was at home for several years. She said while here, that she was never homesick for America while away but when she had to stay here because of the war, she was real homesick to get back to her work in Africa. They returned to Africa in 1921, but were compelled to go to Portuguese East Africa for about two years. There the hostile Catholic Church or Government harassed them with constant interference and finally drove them out. So they again resumed their work at their old field south of Lake Victoria at Nasa, which they had left reluctantly ten years before; since then they have located at Shinyanga in the Tanganyika Territory, East Africa, 150 miles farther south. Mr. Sywulka is a widely known Bible Student and has translated a large part of the New Testament into several native languages. Marie, as a trained nurse is doing a most wonderful and blessed work among the sick of the natives. They come from all directions, several days' journeys to be treated by the white "Bwana," especially for those prevalent sores and skin diseases. Some have come crawling on their knees for many miles begging for relief. Sad to say the churches at home do not seem to be able to keep her supplied with bandages and medicines in sufficient amount. Many souls are won and healed, while their ills are being treated. After her return to Africa, Mrs. Sywulka had been on the field only a few hours when she began her medical work. In one of her recent letters she tells of treating about 250 cases in one month, besides teaching, preaching and visiting the villages round about. Mr. Sywulka is away from home much of the time, doing out-station work, leaving our sister alone with two other missionaries on the station most of the time. What a life of intense ministry and sacrifice. Her mother,

Mrs. Elizabeth Schneider, now 85 years of age, resides in Akron, with Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Baumert, the latter being Mrs. Sywulka's sister. As Mr. Baumert writes: "Marie illustrates the glorious value of a life consecrated to God's cause by a Christian mother."

MISS LOIS KRAMER

With the exception of Miss Ada B. Johnson, who went to Japan in 1883 as a missionary, from the Calvary Church, in Cleveland, under the Parent Missionary Society, the first missionary from Ohio to Japan was Miss Lois Kramer, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Kramer. At the time of her appointment, Miss Kramer was a member of Calvary Church, Cleveland, where she was an active worker in the Sunday School, Young People's Alliance and Woman's Missionary Society. Lois was born in Naperville, Illinois, July 7, 1891, her father then being pastor of the College Chapel congregation. Before her marriage in 1890, Mrs. Kramer was Miss Lydia Goetz, of Fairmont, Minnesota. By the time Lois was six years old, she had three sisters; Sarah, Eunice and Beth. During her childhood the family lived successively in Naperville, Freeport and Plainfield, Illinois, until in 1902, Rev. Kramer was appointed Assistant Editor of the Evangelical Sunday-school and young people's literature; consequently with his family he removed to Cleveland, Ohio, where Lois continued her education and was graduated from the Cleveland Central High School in 1908. The following year she entered the Cleveland Kindergarten Training School, completing the two-years course in 1911. During her training there, she enjoyed especially the practical work with foreign children. In the fall of 1911 she began teaching in the Cleveland Public School for the deaf, her work being with the Kindergarten children and those of the First Primary grade. In this school where deaf children are taught to talk and to understand what people say by watching their lips, Lois taught for six years, a training which has been Providential in opening up a remarkable field for her in Tokyo.

Lois' first Sunday School teacher was Mrs. H. C. Smith, of Naperville. At that time, Miss Susan M. Bauernfeind was a student at what was then called Northwestern College and the superintendent of the Mission Band. So it was very early that



MISS LOIS KRAMER
Japan



MISS SARAH KRAMER
Japan*



MISS GEORGIA WIEST
China



MISS INA GAMERTSFELDER
Japan

*Miss Sarah at present with her mother in Naperville, Ill.



REV. PORTERFIELD



MRS. PORTERFIELD



MISS VERA STULL

Trio from Calvary Church, Marion, Ohio
at Work in the
Red Bird Mission, Kentucky

Lois came under her influence. At the first Freeport, Illinois, Campmeeting, held when Lois was seven years old, she gave her heart to Jesus and, a month later, united with the church. When she was sixteen years old, she was asked by Mrs. L. H. Seager, then superintendent of the Primary Class of the Calvary Sunday School in Cleveland, Ohio, to become one of her helpers and a few years later took charge of the Beginners' Class. She continued working in the various departments of the Church, but was not satisfied with her Christian life, until in August, 1913, at the Stoutsville, Ohio, Campmeeting, she consecrated her life fully to the Lord and promised Him to do whatever work He might give her. From that time, there was a new joy in her Christian service and when the opportunity offered to go to Japan as a Kindergarten Missionary, she gladly accepted it as being the Master's will.

She arrived in Japan in September, 1917 and took up the study of the language at once, gradually taking charge of several kindergartens in Tokyo. In recent years she has had charge of the kindergarten work in Togane, Otsuka and Ushigome, assisting in training the native kindergartners and supervising the work. Perhaps the greatest contribution Miss Kramer has made to the Japanese is the Deaf-Oral School, the first in Japan, which has been conducted in our Ushigome Church, but which is now housed in a fine new building constructed for that purpose. This school was opened by Miss Kramer in connection with Dr. and Mrs. Reischauer, of the Presbyterian Mission, several years ago. It now employs seven well-trained, full time teachers and two others who give part of their time. The enrollment is between fifty and sixty. The need for a school for the deaf children in that city being so great, it has been very successful in reaching children of all classes, thus giving Miss Kramer prestige with the leading people of Tokyo. A Sunday School for the deaf children is also conducted in our Ushigome Church which brings great joy to these poor unfortunates. In closing this sketch, we use Miss Kramer's own words:

"Just recently we learned of a bright young woman 21 years of age who had never received any education at all because she is deaf and so has never learned to talk. Her sensitive soul has never been able to find the expression it craved and her foster-parents have failed utterly to understand her. A

Christian friend has written to the school, telling of the cruel treatment she is receiving and asking what can be done to help her. This appeal has made us feel more determined than ever to give every deaf child who is growing up, a chance to learn to talk. But even more than that we want to help them to lead the kind of lives which will prepare them for the blessed land where they, too, shall be able to hear the heavenly music."

MISS SARAH C. KRAMER

Once more the year following the departure of Lois Kramer from the home-land, did Calvary Church, Cleveland, contribute a daughter to carry out the great commission. Again from the home of Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Kramer went out one of their flock, this time it being Sarah or "Sallie," as her friends affectionately called her, who heard the call to service and sailed for Japan on September 27, 1918.

Like Lois, she was born in Naperville, and grew up under much the same influences as her sister, moving to Cleveland with the family when she was nine years of age. Converted at the early age of six, Sarah was ever active in the Lord's work and when the call came, accepted it naturally and gladly. Her training in the Cleveland Central High School and the Cleveland Kindergarten Training School with four years' teaching in the Cleveland Kindergartens, gave her splendid equipment for the work of a kindergarten missionary. For several years, she was associated with her sister, Lois, and Miss Natalie Berner in charge of several kindergartens in the city of Tokyo and vicinity. Through the children, and the mothers' meetings, which are an important part of the kindergarten work, also in the English Bible Classes, Miss Kramer has been able to present Christ to many needy souls. As she says, "What Japan needs is not more education, not more civilization, but Christianity. They may not realize it, but they are really hungry for a religion that satisfies the heart."

On account of ill health, Sarah was obliged to return to her home, in Ottawa, Illinois, in 1924 where she has been since under medical care, in the effort to become able again to return to her beloved work in Japan.

INA MAY GAMERTSFELDER

In Nellie, Ohio, is a lonely mother, recently bereft of her husband, long an invalid, who misses, in her hour of sorrow the cheering presence of a dearly loved daughter. But that daughter has been called thousands of miles from home by one who needed her still more, and the mother says, "When God calls any of my children, I can let them go." The daughter is Ina May Gamertsfelder, evangelistic missionary in the great city of Tokyo, Japan. Reared in the Christian home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Gamertsfelder, at Tiverton, Ohio, she was converted at the age of fourteen. Then the call came that she was to do some special work, perhaps preach the Gospel, but she kept this to herself for a long time. She finished her High School course, then went to the State Normal School at Kent, Ohio, for two years. When she had received her diploma, she thought she should teach school to see if she would be a successful teacher. This she did, teaching the third and fourth grades for three years at Danville, Ohio; when her parents moved to Coshocton, she went with them and taught in the second grade there for one year. By this time she was satisfied she should make further preparation, so went to Westerville for three years, being graduated from Otterbein College with very high standing. While in Westerville she united with the Evangelical Church there and having volunteered for missionary work, was appointed to the Japan Mission August 5, 1924, and sailed soon after.

Ina was always of a cheerful disposition; she had thought her work would be among children, but she is proving very successful, teaching older students, who love her dearly on account of her winning disposition and love for all races of people. Quoting from one who knows her well, "God made no mistake when He called her for this work."

GEORGIA CANDACE WIEST

In 1898 a little daughter came to gladden the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Wiest, residents of Findlay, Ohio. The parents were earnest Christians and the mother was then serving her fifth year as Branch Manager of Mission Bands, which office she later very efficiently filled for ten years more. Very soon afterwards, the baby's name, which is Georgia Candace Wiest, was sent to Mrs. Hammer, who was just launching the new de-

partment of the Cradle Roll; thus she became the first Cradle Roll Baby of the Woman's Missionary Society. Consecrated to the Lord from childhood, Georgia literally grew up in the W. M. S., becoming a member of the Mission Band and later of the Woman's Missionary Society, until the organization of the Circle in Findlay, when she became one of its charter members. She was a familiar figure at the Branch Conventions, where she usually accompanied her mother, even as a little girl. It seems to have been early impressed upon her that she was called to special work for the Lord. As she wrote once while in college, "I think I have known ever since I was born that I should be a missionary."

Yet, in spite of her training and this inward urge, Georgia did not really want to be a missionary. She pursued her education, being a graduate of Findlay High School and North Central College at Naperville, then took up teaching in the High School at Mt. Cory, Ohio, and afterward at Morral. But she was not satisfied. While in college she had felt persuaded to join the Student Volunteers, but it was not until God had plainly shown her, through the request of Mrs. E. M. Spreng and Mrs. J. S. Stamm, then Candidate Secretary of the General W. M. S., and by laying his hand upon her until she felt that she *had to go*, that she finally said "yes." Then the joy came, and with it, the "want to." With a happy heart she bade goodbye to parents, her younger brother and sister, and the friends of her home church, St. Paul's at Findlay, and sailed for China from Seattle on September 4, 1923.

She at once entered the Nanking Language School and as soon as she had sufficiently mastered the Chinese language, took up her work at Shen-chow-fu in West Hunan, as an educational missionary. How she has loved her work and how worth while have been these few years she has been permitted to serve there, filled as they have been with the joy of service and the "peace that passeth all understanding." As with the other lady missionaries of that province, the recent outbreaks in China forced her to leave her beloved work, it was with a breaking heart and a determination to return as soon as opportunity should offer. In the meantime she is in Shanghai, awaiting orders to proceed to Japan, if possible, very much desiring to "carry on" some place, "For Christ's sake and the Gospel's."

Missionaries supported by Y. P. M. C.: Miss Marie Hasenpflug, China; Miss Kathryn Schirmer, Japan; Miss Mary Nippert, Milwaukee, Wis.; Miss Vera Stull, Red Bird, Ky.

MISS KATHRYN SCHIRMER

Miss Kathryn Schirmer, the sixth child in a family of seven, was born and reared near Holton, Kansas. She attended Campbell College, at Holton, for two years and completed her college course at Northwestern College, Naperville, Ill., in 1915. Thereafter she taught modern languages in Manlius High School, Illinois. While a sophomore in college, she became a student volunteer, and attended the great Student Volunteer Convention at Kansas City. While teaching in the public schools she did not feel satisfied until yielding her life to the call of God. She was appointed missionary to Japan and arrived there in September, 1917. Before she sailed to the foreign field, Miss Schirmer was assigned to the Ohio Circles as their special missionary which has continued to the present time. She served acceptably on the northernmost station of our work in Japan, namely, Koriyama-Sukagawa, where she resided with Elmina Ranck. Here she served a number of outlying towns and villages. During her furlough in 1924, she made a speaking tour through the States and spoke in twenty-four places in Ohio, which further endeared her to the girls of our Branch. After her return to Japan she was sent to Osaka to take the place of Miss Florence Erffmeyer and has spent several years in this large center of Japan. While we at home have been contributing for her support and praying for her, she has been on the field for us, patiently teaching and preaching the gospel of Jesus.

MISS VERA STULL

The story of Vera Stull is that of a child who has the heritage of Christian culture for generations. Her grandfather was Rev. John Stull and two of her uncles were ministers in the Evangelical Association. "Her grandfather on her mother's side was the most radiant, victorious Christian I ever met," writes a member of Calvary Church, Marion; he was Mr. Michael Zachman, beloved by the whole church, by whom he was called by the endearing name of "Uncle Mike." Her father and mother

have always been staunch, devoted Christians, also members of Calvary Church. A normal, wholesome girl, always a child of the Church and Sunday School, Vera was born and reared in Marion and was graduated from the High School and Business College there. A business life did not seem to satisfy her, so she went to Naperville for further preparation for work in life, feeling that God had other tasks for her to do. Having learned of the needs of the mountain districts of Kentucky and the work the Evangelical Church is doing in the Red Bird Mission, she offered herself for service in this field and was appointed on April 8, 1925.

Three months later she took up her work in the Red Bird Mission and has since been a successful teacher in the Settlement School there. Her joy is great in being permitted to thus serve her Master.

Miss Marie Hasenpflug, Miss Mary Nippert, the other missionaries, belonging peculiarly to the Circles of Ohio Branch, are given special mention in other chapters of this book, Miss Hasenpflug having gone to the field from the former United Evangelical Church, Miss Nippert from the former Erie Branch. How thankful we are that now all these splendid people are representing the Evangelical Church. "We are not divided, All one body we," going forward under one banner, the Cross of Jesus.

REV. AND MRS. HOWARD N. PORTERFIELD

Two more consecrated young people, of whom the Ohio Conference Branch may well feel proud, are Rev. and Mrs. Howard N. Porterfield. Mrs. Porterfield is a native of Caledonia, Ohio, and did not have the advantage of Christian training in her home. Rev. Porterfield's home was near Waldo, Ohio, his parents being Christians of another denomination. Soon after their marriage, they settled in Marion and through an invitation from Rev. O. D. Wonder, then teacher of the Men's Bible Class of Calvary Church, there, (now pastor of our church in San Francisco) they began to attend the Sunday School. During a revival, they were both converted, but, not fully satisfied, three years later they wholly consecrated themselves to the Lord and in 1916 he was called to preach. Very spiritual and



REV. D. F. BROSE
Chatfield, Ohio



MRS. D. F. BROSE
Chatfield, Ohio



DR. R. E. SPRENG
Yuh sien, China



REV. J. S. DEEDRICK
Kentucky

Missionaries in Service under the General
Board

Formerly Ohioans

most faithful in the home church, they began to work to get the means for his preparation. No sacrifice was too great, no work too menial, since it was for their Lord. During this time came the World War and Mr. Porterfield enlisted, but served only three months and they finally were able to go to college. Here came testing times, when he has said it seemed as if they would have to give up, then they would remember the Church back home, praying for them and counting on them and they would look to God. Needless to say, He took them through. Part of the time, he served as student-pastor at Elmhurst, Illinois.

After completing a course in Northwestern College Academy, he was graduated from the Theological Seminary in 1924, Mrs. Porterfield having completed the Christian Worker's Course in the Seminary the previous year. When this last year of preparation came, they were anxiously and rejoicingly looking forward to the time when they could come back into the Ohio Conference, but the Lord was ready now to make known His plans for them and they received word from the missionary interests of the Church asking them if they would consider a call to Kentucky. After waiting on the Lord, they again yielded up their plans and offered themselves for this work.

They were appointed to the Kentucky Mission in June, 1924 and gladly went forth to the Lord's work there that same summer, entering at once upon their work at Jack's Creek, which is ten miles north of Red Bird, in Leslie County. Here they are doing a great work in the promotion of Kingdom building. Rev. Porterfield is pastor-teacher at Jack's Creek, and Mrs. Porterfield assists in the work of education and evangelization. They ask the friends of the mission to remember their people in prayer that Jesus may be made real in every phase of life.

There are other consecrated young people, who have gone out in service for their Master, whom the Ohio Branch claims as hers. There is Dr. Ralph E. Spreng, son of Bishop and Mrs. S. P. Spreng, in charge of the Emma Dubs Memorial Hospital at Yuh sien, Hunan, China. Born at Lancaster, Ohio, he received his education in Ohio, where he also began his Christian activities.

Rev. J. S. Deedrick, pastor-teacher at Beech Fork Station,

Kentucky, spent his boyhood in Canton, Ohio, where he was converted during the Billy Sunday meetings.

Rev. D. F. Brose, missionary to China, who sailed with Mrs. Brose for that country in 1926, is a native of Chatfield, Ohio. He was converted at an early age at the family altar, attended Northwestern College and while in his Sophomore year, experienced the call to the Christian ministry and became a Student Volunteer. He was graduated from Wooster in 1923, but went back to Naperville to the Evangelical Theological Seminary, where he united with the Evangelical Church, and upon completion of his studies, joined the Ohio Conference. After a two-years' pastorate at Warren, Pa., he attended the Biblical Seminary. Upon the completion of this course, he brought his bride, formerly Laura Cornwell, to Sawyerwood, Ohio, where they served as pastor for one year, being appointed to China in April, 1926. Mrs. Brose is the daughter of missionaries who laid down their lives in China, where she was born and lived until after their death.

Miss Ida M. Michaelis, a member of the Evangelical Church at Kelley's Island, Ohio, was appointed in 1926 to the Kentucky mission as assistant matron at the Dormitory, where she is serving with good satisfaction.

Others have gone out under other boards. Miss Leta McCose, a member of the Ebenezer Orphan Home family and a member of the Flat Rock W. M. S., went to China a number of years ago under the United Evangelical Church and Miss Sadie Weidner, a teacher at the Home, also a member of that Missionary Society, has carried the good news into Japan, sent by the Reformed Church.

Some are serving as deaconesses, ministers of the gospel, pastor's helpers or ministering to the immigrant and the needy in some of our great cities, among them being Miss Lida Imhof of the Hebrew Mission in the city of Cleveland. In whatever fields they are laboring, May God richly bless these our messengers, enabling them to win many precious souls for Him.

PART TWO

HISTORY OF THE ERIE BRANCH

of the

Woman's Missionary Society *of the Evangelical Association*

by

MRS. LYDIA MOELLER

THE organization of the Erie Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society was effected August 18, 1892, at Linwood Park, Ohio.

Under the able leadership of our sainted Bishop Horn, who presided at this meeting and our sainted Sister Gaehr, who was the organizer, the delegates from five of our congregations met to bring this organization into effect. Five societies joined at this time. The first year, five other societies were won and our first annual report read: Ten Societies, 230 Members and \$239.00 raised for Missions. This was by no means an easy task. We had to struggle with many difficulties and there were many oppositions to be met. A great many were against us; even some of our good ministerial brethren thought, "Women have no business to undertake this work." But the work of our Branch was started and with much prayer and patience it began to grow. Sister Gaehr had a clear vision of the work that the women of our beloved Branch should do and so in her energetic and tactful way, she went prayerfully forward.

Sister Gaehr was chosen for the first President of the Branch and served faithfully for six years, when, on account of ill health, she was forced to lay down her office. But she had sown good seed and already much had taken root and was bearing fruit.

Our much beloved Mary B. Gehlke was the second President and served for twenty years in an excellent way until God came and said, "It is enough, well done, good and faithful servant."

Our very much esteemed sister, Mrs. C. R. Rall, of Pittsburg, was the third president and served the Branch in her most tactful way and untiring efforts until the time came when

it was thought best to dissolve the Erie Conference. As the Erie Branch was spread over a large territory, our societies were divided and joined the New York, Pittsburgh and Ohio Branches of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church. Twenty-one societies united with the Ohio Branch, fifteen societies with the Pittsburgh Branch and two, with the New York Branch.

While our hearts were filled with the pain of separation from those with whom we were co-workers in God's vineyard, we also felt happy to be received so cordially by our Ohio sisters into the ranks of their Branch.

From the small beginning of five societies with \$239.00 raised for missions the first year, the Erie Branch grew to

38 Societies	with 1588 members
7 Young Women's Circles	with 140 members
15 Message Bearers Societies	with 438 members
9 Little Herald Rolls	with 184 members

and \$9,111.11 raised as a grand total for our last year's work together.

During the years of our Branch activities, we were instrumental in bringing into the Treasury the sum of \$85,660.00. About \$6,000 were raised as specific gifts for the foreign field, such as Building Funds, Bible Women, Bible Students, Orphans, Needy Girls. 85 Honorary Members were secured, also 345 Life Members.

We have had the pleasure of sending out four of our precious young women as Missionaries. The first Italian missionary was one of our girls, Miss Katherine Eyerick, at that time, and now another is serving in the same field, Miss Mary Nippert. Miss Cora E. Haller went to Japan and did splendid work there until her health began to fail and she was forced to give up her beloved work over there. Miss Esther Hammel is also in Japan and is engaged in the Kindergarten work, serving the Master in a very efficient way.

Through the help of God and the efforts of these faithful and very able leaders, the work of the Erie Branch was a success. We praise God for the wonderful help he has given us and the many blessings that were ours during these thirty-two years of the Erie Branch.



MRS. G. GAEHER
First Vice President



MRS. W. HORN
First Vice President



MRS. C. R. RALL
Third President

Former Officers of Erie Conference Branch



MRS. C. H. GEHLKE
1st Corresponding Secretary



MRS. L. SEITH
1st Secretary of Mission Board



MRS. C. A. THOMAS
1st Treasurer

Former Officers of Erie Conference Branch

OUR MISSIONARIES

MRS. KATHRINE EYERICK GIULIANI

Miss Eyerick was born at Amherst, Ohio. At a camp meeting held at Linwood Park, Ohio, she was converted, and at once entered actively into the services of the Lord and the church.

After her graduation from High School, she attended college at Ada, Ohio. Realizing a call for missionary service in the foreign field, she completed a course in Theology in our Evangelical Seminary at Naperville, Ill., with marked credit to herself, being the first woman to graduate from that institution.

Our church at this time did not give her the opportunity for the services she desired to render, however a way was opened for her to do mission work among the Italians at Steubenville, Ohio. In September, 1904, our Wellsville Italian Mission was established and Miss Eyerick was appointed the regular missionary. Here she labored faithfully and with success.

On April 24, 1909, an organization was effected in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Miss Eyerick was stationed there. Under the blessings of God and her faithful work, the Italian Mission developed splendidly. Her first three converts became ministers of the Gospel which she preached so effectively and successfully.

On April 4, 1911, Miss Eyerick was married to Rev. A. Giuliani. This happy union was soon to come to a close, on July 25, unexpectedly, the angel of death summoned this consecrated worker from her labors to her eternal reward.

CORA EMMA HALLER

When Susan Bauernfeind, one of the first single woman missionaries to go to Japan from the Evangelical Association, visited the Erie Church in the spring of 1900, and spoke at the morning service, one of the most attentive listeners was a high school girl by the name of Cora Haller. From time to time, when missionary addresses had been delivered at her church, especially when the Board of Missions met there two or three times, Cora had become intensely interested in the work of foreign missions. Therefore the visit of Miss Bauernfeind,

the first lady missionary she had ever seen, was most significant and the attractive personality of Miss Bauernfeind made a lasting impression on the seventeen-year-old girl, who was inclined to be serious minded and naturally religious. She had been converted and joined the church at the age of twelve, had been active in the work of the Sunday-school, and Young People's Alliance and thus quite naturally came to regard a life of service for the Lord as the ideal one. She seemed to have an early interest in travel abroad, for in the lower grades in the grammar school, as she studied geography, she would tell her mother that she wanted to go to Germany some day and visit the country where her father had been born. Somehow foreign peoples interested her and the foreign countries with their strange customs and languages appealed to her childish imagination. But it was not until she was a student at Vassar College, where she had heard returned missionaries from time to time, joined mission study classes and learned of the work of such leaders as Dr. Robert E. Speer and Dr. John R. Mott, whose little book, "The Evangelization of the World in this Generation," was read and studied much in those college days of 1900-1904, that she definitely formed the idea of becoming a foreign missionary if possible and earnestly felt the call to foreign mission service.

She learned of the Student Volunteer Movement during those years, but since she was the oldest daughter in a family of seven, whose father had died when she was twelve, she felt she could not join the Student Volunteers, though, in her heart, she had volunteered to her Lord and Master.

After her graduation from college in 1904, she began teaching at the Edinboro State Normal School, about eighteen miles from Erie. Here she was preceptress in the girls' dormitory and teacher of English and German. During her first year at Edinboro, she met a missionary secretary of the Woman's Union Missionary Society, who urged her to consider a position in Allahabad, India, but on account of the serious objection of her mother and a sense of loyalty to her own denomination she gave up the idea of going to India; however, from that time on, the idea of going to Japan some day as a missionary under the Evangelical Board took more definite shape. During these years, Mrs. E. M. Spreng, President of the Wo-



KATHARINE EYERICK GIULIANI
First Misionary among the
Italians



MRS. CORA HALLER GAEHR
Japan (formerly)



MARY NIPPERT
Milwaukee, Wis.



ESTHER HAMMEL
Japan

man's Board, became interested in Miss Haller and was a guide and inspiration during the days of uncertainty and opposition from some of those who were nearest and dearest.

Finally, after four years of school teaching, two at Edinboro Normal, one as principal of West Mill Creek Township High School near Erie, and one in the Erie High School, Miss Haller sailed for Japan from Vancouver, B. C., on October 7, 1908, reaching Yokohama on October 21st, her 26th birthday. She lived in the lady missionaries' residence at 84 Sasugayacho, Koishikawa, Tokyo, at first with the Misses Bauernfeind, Ranck and Edna Erffmeyer, later, with the two former, as Miss Erffmeyer was transferred to Kobe. Miss Haller followed the customary life of a missionary in Japan in those days, attending the Japanese language school the first two years, teaching in the Bible Women's Training School through the very able school interpreter, Miss Noguchi, teaching English to several groups of young Japanese girls who came from government and private schools especially for conversation practice with an American, and on Saturdays and Sundays teaching young men's English Bible classes in the Evangelical mission churches. As the Japanese language is very complex and difficult for westerners to learn, it takes a number of years until the foreign missionary can use the language in her work. Therefore when Miss Haller was compelled to leave Japan in the spring of 1913 on account of a break in her health, her work as a missionary had hardly passed its preparatory stage. It was with the deepest regret and bitter disappointment that she felt compelled to leave the work and return home, but she looked forward to an early return after a quick recovery to health and strength. However, as the decline in health had been gradual, the return to health and vigor was correspondingly long and finally it became clear that it would not be wise to go back to Japan as a missionary.

After five years, during which time Miss Haller returned to teaching in the Erie High School, an invitation was received from the Pacific Coast Field Committee of the Young Women's Christian Association to come to California as a special worker among Japanese women. In San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton, Sacramento and Fresno extension work among Japanese immigrant women was carried on in connection with the port work

done by Miss Sarah Ellis, who had also been a missionary in Tokyo.

From July to November in 1919, Miss Haller was engaged in work among the Japanese in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, having been sent out from California to make a study of the Japanese situation in Honolulu and to start a young worker among the Japanese women of the Y. W. C. A. International Institute.

On account of illness in her family, Miss Haller resigned her position with the Y. W. C. A. in San Francisco and returned home in March, 1920. Here she continued teaching privately until January, 1923, when she made a trip around the world with her youngest sister and several friends, revisiting Japan just ten years after her departure as a missionary. Her joy at being able to see the work again and the country which had become so dear to her and to meet again many of her friends and acquaintances there, can easily be imagined. Great progress both material and spiritual, was evident on every hand. She rejoiced greatly at signs of the extension of Christ's kingdom in Japan and was deeply grateful for the privilege of seeing dear old Japan again.

On August 29, 1923, Cora Haller was married to Mr. Jonathan Gachr of Cleveland, Ohio. Since Mr. Gachr was a member of a Presbyterian church there, Cora joined his church, but her heart is still most deeply interested in the extension of Christ's kingdom both in the homeland and abroad in the foreign fields, especially in Japan.

MISS MARY C. NIPPERT

Miss Mary C. Nippert, of Beaver Falls, Pa., a member of the former Erie Branch of the Evangelical Association, felt the call to become a missionary soon after her conversion, but because of other responsibilities that were thrust upon her, the way was not open for her to enter missionary service for a number of years. In the meantime, she was always very active in the home church, particularly in the work among the young people, serving for four years as Secretary of the Department of Stewardship and Missions of the Erie Conference Branch of the Young People's Alliance, which office she held until her appointment as missionary. When Deaconess Fecker, worker

among the Italians at Milwaukee, in Rev. Giuliani's mission in that city, was obliged to give up the work, Miss Nippert was asked to take her place, which she did, entering upon this service in June, 1922. In the two Italian congregations in Milwaukee, and the mission in Wauwatosa, she finds much to do, teaching in the Bible Classes, conducting the Wauwatosa Sunday School and working among the women and children wherever possible. In this great field, God is richly blessing her work.

ESTHER HAMMEL

Another Erie Branch girl, who has gone far away to help in carrying out our Lord's command, is Miss Esther Hammel, of Cleveland, Ohio, now living with Miss Lois Kramer, at Koishikawa, Japan. She is the only child of Christian and Minnie Hammel. She gave her heart to God when a little girl, seven years old, uniting with the church of her parents, our East 105th Street Church in Cleveland. In this city she grew up and received her education, being a graduate of East High School and the Cleveland Kindergarten Training School. She taught for several years in the Cleveland Kindergartnes, teaching in Memorial, Brett, Lincoln and Chesterfield Schools.

Esther was always keenly interested in children's work, thus being especially adapted to her vocation as kindergartner. In her home church, she taught in the Primary Department of the Sunday-school, had supervision of the Mission Band, and was very active, also, in both departments of C. E. Work. But she felt that this was not enough to do for her Lord, and when the call came to go to Japan, she gladly accepted, sailing with Miss Lois Kramer on August 24, 1924, and is proving a valuable assistant in the work among the mothers and children in the Koishikawa District.

PART THREE

HISTORY OF THE OHIO (UNITED) BRANCH

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY, EVANGELICAL CHURCH

In attempting to follow up the years, we have found no easy task, as the preserved records have been meager and much of the data must necessarily be gleaned from conference journals, etc., assisted by memory which oftentimes fails or tricks one. So we ask sympathy and forbearance with any mistakes or omissions which may have been made in this well meant effort.

Mrs. W. S. Harpster.

THE STORY OF THE FIRST TEN YEARS, 1900-1910.

GOD is love, and wherever the Spirit of Love has been manifested through the organized church, there has been a vision of the world's greatest need, and a zeal to reach out and help fulfill His last great command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." In our own beloved church, the women have long felt the throb of this great world love of the Saviour, and sought an outlet of expression in service through the Woman's Missionary Society.

In 1876, a great interest in missions swept through the church when the Kreckers with Miss Rachel Hudson and Rev. A. Halmhuber accepted the call of the church to the mission field in Japan. Dr. and Mrs. Krecker took their three little ones with them and around the beautiful lives of this little family the fragrant flowers of love grew and scattered their petals and seed on foreign soil, the Spirit of Love wafting little feather-winged ripened seeds far away over the silvery foam, back to the country of which the dear father and mother so often dreamed after a day of sacrifice, toil and service, the dear homeland which Dr. Krecker was not again to behold.

Sorrow only served to strengthen the brave heart of Mrs. Krecker, and she toiled on. When she returned to her native land with her children, leaving a green mound in far-away Japan, she did much to foster the growth of missionary zeal in the church. With her faith, devotion and executive ability, she en-

deared herself to our women during the times of great stress in the early nineties.

The Ohio United Conference was organized in 1894 and there fell to her portion one Woman's Missionary Society which was at Lancaster and had been organized in 1886; they are recorded that year with giving \$10.00 to the Ohio Conference. They have been reported through the conference journal, then through the Branch every year since, having been reorganized in the new regime without a lapse. There was also a Mission Band at Lancaster in the early nineties perhaps held in connection with the woman's society. In 1893 Mrs. Lucy Sain, a devoted worker in these societies, composed a little program for the children, each child telling in rhyme how she had earned her money. One little girl who had

*"Worked till her little back did ache,
To earn some money for the heathen's sake,"*

has since taken up her life work in Korea.

In 1895 the Conference received from the Pittsburgh Conference a section lying in eastern Ohio of which Canton and Youngstown churches were a part.

The following information has been gleaned from the Conference Journal of 1895, page 37: "Canton Mission, First Church. This mission has been in existence ten years." Then follows a report of the conditions of the property, finances, etc. then the enrollment of the different departments, among which we find, "W. M. S., 25; Mission Band, 31." The next paragraph is, "Youngstown Mission. This Mission has been in existence for about eight years." Then under enrollment, "W. M. S., 11; Mission Band, 30." Just following, these resolutions are found:

"Whereas, The W. M. S. is putting forth an extra effort to raise funds for the spread of the Gospel in heathen lands, and are anxious that we join them in their efforts, therefore,

Resolved, That we aim to organize a W. M. S. in every society, wherever the preacher in charge thinks it expedient, and that the ladies all over the conference be encouraged to organize and that literature be circulated, and, if possible, addresses delivered by active workers within this conference year, to our people, and if possible, at our annual camp meetings."

There were Woman's Missionary Societies and Mission



MRS. L. A. SAIN
Vice President



MRS. M. B. TEMPLIN
Recording Secretary



MRS. W. E. BAILEY
Corresponding Secretary

Ohio United Branch



MRS. W. S. HARPSTER
Supt. of Mission Bands



MRS. W. W. SHERRICK
President
Supt. of Cradle Roll and
Home Department

Ohio United Branch

Bands reported both at Canton and Youngstown at this time. The date of the organization of the W. M. S. at Canton was given as 1892 and they have reported annually ever since doing splendid work, but the societies at Youngstown only continued active until about 1905 as far as can be learned. However they were later reorganized.

In 1897, a W. M. S. and Mission Band were organized at Cleveland Woodland Avenue and also at Cleveland South Side Church. The latter church has since been abandoned. The Findlay auxiliary was organized in 1898 but did not report regularly for several years. Thus there were a few societies and Mission Bands scattered through the conference that should be organized into a Branch.

1900.

During these years, Mrs. S. P. Remer who was General Secretary of the Woman's Board, and Mrs. T. L. Haines, Superintendent of Mission Bands, kept in touch with our societies, sending blanks which were filled out and sent directly to them. Then at the Highland Park Camp Ground, which was located between Canton and Akron, Bishop R. Dubs preached a never to be forgotten sermon in August 1900, just before his son Dr. C. Newton Dubs with his wife and son Homer sailed for China.

They were to be our first representatives in that country and we were all touched by the Spirit of Love which had prompted them to accept the call of the Mission Board to give their lives for China. There in the leafy grove, Bishop Dubs made a strong appeal to the women of Ohio to have a very personal part in this new mission and our hearts were stirred to the depths. The day culminated in the organization of the Ohio United Branch with the following officers: President, Mrs. W. W. Sherrick of Lancaster; Vice President, Mrs. Lucy Sain also of Lancaster; Recording Secretary, Mrs. M. B. Templin, Calla; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. E. Bailey, Cleveland; Treasurer, Mrs. W. M. Shuster, Cleveland.

1901

During the year that followed, Mrs. S. P. Remer kept in close touch with the officers, urging a Branch meeting which was planned for and held in the Lancaster Maple Street Chapel,

convening September 29, 1901, at 2 P. M. Mrs. Elizabeth Krecker, General Organizer as well as president of the Woman's Board, was present at this meeting, rallying and encouraging the few in attendance by her address which came right from the heart and reached the hearts of her hearers. Three auxiliaries reported: Lancaster, Canton and Cleveland Woodland Avenue, with a total membership of eighty-nine. \$315.00 had been secured and \$286.00 appropriated. Twenty-six "Tidings" subscriptions were reported. There were also three Mission Bands that year, Lancaster, Canton and Youngstown. Mrs. N. W. Sager succeeded Mrs. Bailey as corresponding secretary, Mrs. Inah E. H. Summers was chosen Superintendent Y. P. M. S., and Mrs. W. S. Harpster, Superintendent Mission Bands. Mrs. G. A. Smith was named Organizer of the eastern district.

It was a great privilege that in October of 1901 the General Board meeting should be held at Baltimore, O. Mrs. Sherrick was the delegate and many others of the women were permitted to attend the sessions, which was a source of much inspiration. This was followed by Mrs. Krecker making a tour of the conference, visiting many congregations, giving out information and creating interest wherever she went. A woman's auxiliary and a Mission Band were organized at Baltimore and continued for several years. Permanent societies were organized at Calla, Brownhelm and Mt. Tabor. The Conference Journal of 1902 also reports a Y. P. M. S. at Lancaster as organized about that time.

1902

In 1902, 1903 and 1904 the Branch met on the historical old Baltimore Camp Ground situated three miles south of Baltimore and which was, for years, a rallying place for Evangelicals. Here were the "Oaks of Abraham" under whose lofty boughs hearts were bared to God and tender consecrations made. In the "Preacher's Cottage" the women met first for their business sessions, then in the Auditorium for a program and missionary sermon. In both 1901 and 1902 the Branch meetings were confined to one afternoon, but to say the afternoon of the 1902 meeting was packed full, is no exaggeration if we are to go by the recorded report. They met at 1 P. M. and after the devotionals there was an address by the president,

reports, addresses by the delegates and election of officers. Mrs. J. R. (Allie) Johnson of Baltimore was elected treasurer, Mrs. Emma Cowan of Basil, Superintendent of Y. P. M. S. and Mrs. Mary Patterson of Cleveland, Superintendent of Mission Bands. Organizers: Mrs. H. W. Espey and Mrs. Inah E. H. Summers. The financial report was \$422.00 secured, \$50.00 of which was a personal gift from Mrs. F. A. Shauck of Johnsville, Ohio. The Tidings list had grown to 165 and ten auxiliaries reported: Lancaster, Mt. Tabor, Canton, Cleveland, Youngstown, Calla, Baltimore, Brownhelm, Findlay and Stark. Mission Bands at Lancaster, Baltimore and Youngstown; a Y. P. M. S. at Lancaster.

After this business session a program was rendered in the auditorium consisting of songs, readings and several addresses followed by a stirring missionary sermon by Bishop W. M. Stanford in which he strongly urged the pastors to help the W. M. S. in every possible way.

1903.

July 31, 1903 the first all day meeting of the Branch was held, convening at 10:30 A. M. Only five auxiliaries reported to the Branch, altho eight were reported to the conference. The Lancaster Y. P. M. S. and three Mission Bands were reported. In Mrs. Sherrick's address she said although our progress was not rapid, being little by little, step by step, and though we had not accomplished as much as had been desired, yet we ought not be discouraged, but press on. July 1 was named as the time for the election of officers and closing the year's work in the local auxiliaries. This year Mrs. M. B. Templin was elected president and filled this office until 1916. Mrs. Sherrick was the Vice President, Miss E. Dell Miesse, Recording Secretary and Miss Ella Sager, Corresponding Secretary. The treasurer reported \$171.00. Carey dates its organization from 1903.

In the afternoon a program was given in the auditorium, one number of which was "How some little dollies came to go as missionaries," given by one of the Mission Bands. After this, Rev. Fosselman of Lock Haven Pa., gave a very interesting address, his subject being, "China and her People." Mrs. Wenning of Canton had been elected delegate to the Woman's Board which was to convene at Canton but she was called to her re-

ward in the interim, and Mrs. Templin who had been named as alternate, served.

Conference Journal of 1903—"Though our Woman's Missionary Societies are few in number, yet they are going heroically forward and should continue to receive our hearty encouragement, sympathy and commendation in their work. In the societies reported, there has been a net increase of nine members and a commendable showing in the financial statement."

1904

On the morning of July 26, 1904 the Branch convened in the "Preacher's Cottage," at Baltimore Camp Ground, five officers answering to roll call. In accordance with a request from the General Executive Committee, a motion was passed changing the name of the society from "Woman's Missionary Society" to "Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society." Miss Zipporah Miesse was elected superintendent Y. P. M. S. and Mrs. Angie Allen of Mission Bands. Miss Ella Sager was elected delegate to the Woman's Board. \$172.00 was the financial report. In the afternoon a program was held in the auditorium consisting of addresses by Mrs. Templin, Rev. L. M. Boyer and Rev. G. A. Smith.

During the following year, there was a healthy new growth to our Branch, information of which has been gleaned from the Conference Journal of 1905 and it is a well known fact that new growth is necessary to fruit bearing. In November 1904, the Akron First auxiliary was organized with thirty-five members, during the pastorate of Rev. G. A. Smith and this society rapidly came to the front. Canton Trinity now came in with a charter membership of fifty-two and was reported in a flourishing condition by the pastor, Rev. Daniel A. Poling. Columbus was also heard from; with Rev. W. E. Bailey as pastor, an auxiliary was organized at Wesley Avenue (now East Eighth Avenue) with a membership of thirty two, and Miller Avenue where Rev. H. V. Summers was pastor, was organized with twenty-eight charter members. This Journal also contains the resolution passed by conference to publish the annual Branch report of the Woman's Missionary Society and to urge the organization of auxiliaries "on all charges where it is practicable."

1905—1908

In 1905 and for four consecutive years, the annual Branch meeting was held at the Highland Park Camp Ground which had been its birthplace in 1900, and which holds sacred memories of many, who as young people and children, were influenced by the powerful sermons that fell from the lips of God's servants and the shouts of victory that so often ascended to heaven from worshipers here assembled. In this lovely grove of hills and vales, lives have been consecrated and gone out to serve both at home and abroad and although the old camp has been abandoned, influences have radiated from it which will never die.

These Branch meetings were always held during the camp-meeting, and W. M. S. day was a red letter day during the four years. Each year there were splendid and inspiring missionary addresses and sermons by such men as Bishop Dubs, Daniel A. Poling, Rev. W. H. Fouke (afterwards Bishop) and Bishop Heil. The Mission Band children gathered from the different churches were enlisted in the programs and the young people gladly furnished the music, giving a cantata one year entitled the "Conquering Cross." It was in 1906 that Mrs. H. D. Shultz was elected corresponding secretary and she filled this arduous position with painstaking care for fourteen years. For a time she was also an officer in the General Society, being Superintendent of Mission Bands. The Department of Literature was started in 1907 and Miss Agnes Muckley of Canton was elected secretary but she was called home during the year, and in 1908 Mrs. H. M. Thompson was elected as Librarian. Mrs. W. W. Sherrick, Superintendent Mission Bands, reported several new Bands organized in 1907. Thirteen Woman's auxiliaries were active in 1908. These last three years, the delegates to the Woman's Board of Missions had been in turn Mrs. Sherrick, Mrs. Templin and Miss Z. Miesse; the reports brought back kept us in touch with the work at large and always proved a channel of blessing.

For the past seven years our business sessions had been held in a cottage on a camp ground and we began to think we were strong enough to launch out in a regular convention.

The executive committee decided it would be advantageous to have more time for the Branch meetings and also of benefit to the different auxiliaries to be permitted to entertain such meetings, accordingly we planned for an executive meeting which was held in June at the home of Mrs. Rodgers, the treasurer, in Calla. A program was arranged for a convention to be held at the Miller Avenue church in Columbus in August following. For the first time the expenses of the president and treasurer were to be paid to the Branch meeting, the officers having heretofore paid all their own expenses.

1909

The Ohio Branch of the "W. H. and F. M. S." of the United Evangelical Church met in the Miller Avenue Church, Columbus, on the 10th day of August, 1909, at 7:30 P. M. to hold their first regular convention. A lovely coincidence was the fact of this year being also the Silver Anniversary of the organization of Woman's Board of Missions in our Church. We had our first printed programs, of which we were very proud. "Forward" was the motto and the Juvenile Choir sang "Forward be out watchword." After the welcome address by the local president, Mrs. Mann, Daniel A. Poling who was Field Secretary of the Ohio Christian Endeavor Union and a member of the Miller Avenue church at this time, gave the address of the evening, his text being "The love of Christ constraineth us"; this was followed by a solo, "The ninety and nine" by Ada Vandersall of Canton.

Wednesday morning the devotions were led by the now sainted Mrs. Shireman of Carey. During the day, aside from the usual business, there was an interesting discussion of methods. Ten of the eleven auxiliaries sent delegates and \$987.00 had been raised. A number of books had been given to the Branch Library the past year, six volumes from the Illinois Branch and two volumes from Mrs. Gruhler. Mrs. Thompson, the librarian, urged a greater interest in circulating them, that a greater missionary education might be promoted. A letter of greeting from Mrs. Iva Guiley Dunlap was read with great interest as she with her husband, Rev. Irving Dunlap, was soon to sail for China and she would be a representative from our very

own Branch. Miss Lenore Harpster was elected delegate to General Woman's Board convening at Allentown, Pa., and at the Board of Missions following received her appointment to China but unavoidable circumstances prevented her going.

In the absence of Mrs. Hensel, recording secretary, Mrs. A. J. Hoyer of Findlay acted as secretary pro tem and was elected to this office for the ensuing year. Mrs. P. E. Smoke was elected Superintendent Y. P. M. S. In the absence of Rev. H. V. Summers who was to have spoken in the evening, Rev. W. S. Harpster, the pastor, gave the address, the Juvenile Choir rendered a recessional, Rev. Smoke pronounced the benediction and thus ended our first real convention. Of course there had been some disappointments but we went serenely on, happy in the knowledge that our Branch was bearing fruit.

1910.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Branch was held in the parsonage at 288 Miller Avenue, Columbus, April 27, 1910, to arrange the program for the next convention, which was to convene at Carey. Five members were present. The dates set for the convention were July 8, 9, 10, from Friday to Sunday inclusive.

The second annual convention which was the tenth annual meeting of the Ohio United Branch, W. H. and F. M. S., met at the Carey church where Rev. W. E. Bailey was the pastor, Friday afternoon, July 8, and were royally welcomed by pastor and people. Eight of eleven auxiliaries were represented and seventeen officers and delegates were present. The attendance of Miss Marie Hasenpflug, who was home on her first furlough from China, was a great inspiration to all. At 2:30 was the first session. Mrs. J. Q. Smoke led the devotions, report from the Board Meeting was read and there were informal greetings from Mrs. Templin and the delegates. In the evening Miss Hasenpflug gave an interesting talk on the social customs in China after which there was a delightful reception at the parsonage. Saturday was full with reports, letters of greeting, election of officers and discussions. Mrs. John Bright of Baltimore sent a gift of \$20.00 for the support of a Bible Woman in China in memory of her son, George Augustus Black, and this has been an annual gift ever since. The convention was

permitted to hear Miss Hasenpflug on the subject of Missionary Oratorical Contest work and Mrs. Harpster was appointed Branch secretary of this work.

A communion service was conducted on Saturday evening by Rev. Brandyberry and Rev. Bailey. On Sunday morning Rev. Harpster's subject was "The Great Commission" and on Sunday evening, Miss Hasenpflug delighted all by appearing in Chinese costume and giving a spicy and instructive talk on Chinese customs, also showing many curios.

The convention had been a spiritual benefit throughout and we were loath to part. Much is due Rev. Bailey and family for the music rendered and to others for the splendid readings given at a number of the sessions. We were pleased with the growth of the Branch in the ten years although it had not been rapid. There were three auxiliaries in the beginning and now there are eleven. There was a membership of eighty-nine, \$286.00 raised and twenty-six Tidings reported the first year, and in ten years growth there were three hundred and seven members, \$1465.00 raised, which was an average of \$4.76 per member, and two hundred and six Tidings subscriptions. The Mission Band and Y. P. M. S. work had been slow although there have been a few organizations; more Mission Bands than Y. P. M. S. auxiliaries.

The ten years work had been finished, "we shall not pass this way again," and the results were in the Master's hands. We wondered if we had done what we could. We had humbly tried, striving to remember that "He is the vine, we are the branches and except we abide in Him, and He in us, we cannot bear fruit." Lord help us to abide in Thee and be fruitful.

The Second Decade, 1910-1920

1911

A new decade was begun in 1911 when the eleventh annual meeting of the Ohio United Branch was held in Akron First Church in July. This was the only United church in Akron at the time and was the home church of Mrs. Iva Guiley Dunlap who had gone to China in 1909. They had a splendid Young People's Society which had been named the Iva Guiley Dunlap auxiliary, and a wide-awake Mission Band under the leadership

of Mrs. Dunlap's sister, Mrs. Mertie Kauffman. These two societies materially helped in making the convention interesting.

The convention opened at 2:30 Friday afternoon. As a part of the program, a symposium on missionary work was given in which each officer participated, many helpful suggestions were made which, quoting from the record, "if practiced by all, would be very helpful in working for the Master's cause." There were a number of addresses in the evening; Saturday morning, sixteen officers and delegates responded, thirteen auxiliaries were represented and the regular business proceeded. An invitation for the next convention was received from Findlay which was accepted.

While this convention was a success in many ways, not enough progress had been made in the past year, therefore the committee on "Ways and Means" recommended that the General Organizer be asked to make a tour of the conference, assisted by some competent person, in an effort to organize more societies, also that she visit the Annual Conference and make a personal appeal to the ministers for co-operation. Each auxiliary was asked to send their president and two delegates and urged to have delegates from the Y. P. M. S. and Mission Bands at the next convention.

Rev. J. B. Kanaga of the Evangelical Association visited the session Saturday afternoon and gave a very interesting talk; with great pleasure a letter of fraternal greeting was received from the president of the Ohio Branch Woman's Missionary Society of that denomination. The annual missionary sermon was delivered by Rev. W. M. Davis and Dr. Ludlow of Cleveland gave a very interesting account of a trip around the world. A step forward was the decision to pay the expenses of all Branch officers to the next convention.

1912

During the convention of 1912, which was at Findlay in July, Dr. B. H. Niebel was to have been present over the Sabbath but it was a happy surprise to have him present during the entire time with his help and encouragement just when such help was so much needed. Mrs. Tate was now M. O. C. secretary and the first contests in the Branch had been held during the year at Carey, Canton and Findlay, which had proven very in-

teresting, so a contest was arranged for the convention in which Mrs. Bertha Porter was awarded the silver medal. Her selection was, "Uncle Jacob at the feet of the heathen."

The financial reports had been on the decrease for two years. The auxiliaries had numbered thirteen for some time; just the jolt that was needed was received when the delegate to the Board in 1912, the writer, was not seated without special action because the Branch did not have the required number of auxiliaries, but we looked forward to better things which prayer and consecration cannot fail to bring. The Ohio Conference Journal of the same year also shows there had been a general decrease in missionary giving and that the church treasury was carrying a deficit of \$1,000.00. So great was the concern that a campaign of missionary education was proposed, showing that the Conference as well as the W. M. S. was awakening to the situation.

1913

When the next year had rolled around, the Branch convened in the lovely new Canton Grace church where Rev. P. E. Smoke was the pastor. One new auxiliary was reported, that of Columbus St. Paul, which was the first since Cleveland Trinity in 1907; reports were much better; thirty-one officers and delegates were enrolled and a financial gain of \$400.00 was realized. It was at this convention that we first had the great joy of having Miss Lillian C. Graeff, Secretary and Publisher of Literature, in attendance, she presented the literature, gave interesting addresses and so endeared herself to the women of the Ohio Branch by her helpfulness and encouragement that we claimed her presence at our conventions for a number of consecutive years thereafter, during which time, she literally became our "referee." Miss Sada Lamb brought greetings to the Canton convention from the Pittsburgh Branch. Rev. H. V. Summers gave two heart-gripping missionary sermons. An interesting incident of this convention was the attendance of Rev. J. A. Grimm, an old veteran of the cross who had spent many years in the service of the church and whose very presence was an inspiration and a benediction.

1914

The fourteenth convention was at Lancaster in June, 1914 in the Maple Street Chapel where the Branch was cordially welcomed by the local auxiliary and the pastor, Rev. W. E. Seesholtz. There was a financial gain as well as a gain in membership. The Efficiency Plan as used in the Illinois Branch was presented by Miss Graeff and discussed but was not adopted until 1916. A special feature of this convention was a memorial service for Mrs. Emma M. Dubs, Mrs. Ida M. Haefele, Mrs. M. M. T. Fouke and Rev. A. C. Lindenmeyer. Mrs. W. S. Mathias of Akron was elected Superintendent Cradle Rolls and Mrs. P. E. Smoke, Branch Organizer. Mrs. W. E. Bailey had been the representative to Woman's Board of Missions in 1913 and Mrs. Templin was elected in 1914. Rev. L. C. Cooper of Baltimore preached the Sunday morning sermon and Miss Graeff was the speaker for the evening. Quoting from the Conference Journal of that year, "The Woman's Missionary Society plods on in the even tenor of its way, and we believe will render a splendid account of itself to this Conference through the pastor in charge."

The "even tenor" was just a little shaken up however, during November following. The recommendation for a thorough tour of the conference in the interest of organization had been made in 1911 but so far, no definite action had been taken. Soon after the conference in 1914, Mrs. Smoke, the courageous new Branch Organizer, at the instigation of the executive committee, got in touch with and secured the services of the indefatigable worker, Mrs. Sarah Ernest Snyder, Field Secretary of the general work. Mrs. Smoke wrote to the pastors of the conference and arranged a tour which covered fourteen days; congregations were visited wherever arrangement could be made and an organization, either W. M. S., Y. P. M. S. or Mission Band was effected at each place visited. W. M. S. auxiliaries at Akron Grace, Fairhope and Republic and Mission Bands at Warren and Findlay were permanent. While a number of organizations were made that were not followed up, yet the seed had been sown and harvest reaped later.

1915

When the Branch convened in Akron First Church in 1915, there were financial reverses in the business world, as well as

in the church, so there should be no surprise that the average amount secured per member was not as large as the previous year. However the following from Secretary Niebel's report is encouraging: "*Comment*—The Woman's Missionary Society with its adjunct departments raised 52 per cent of all the money for foreign missions. Of the gross amount raised for all purposes, this organization collected 24½ per cent of it." We note with pleasure the reorganization of the W. M. S. at Cleveland Woodland Avenue with a membership of sixteen, as that auxiliary had been a charter member of the Ohio United Branch. The new mission at Akron Grace started out right by organizing a W. M. S. auxiliary in the beginning with a membership of twenty-three. Fairhope had organized with ten members and Republic with the same number. Notwithstanding the addition of fifty-nine members by new auxiliaries, the loss was so great in the old societies, including the loss of Cleveland Trinity, because of the abandoning of that church locality, that the net gain was only one member.

Akron, First auxiliary organized a Mission Band in their beginning, have a flourishing Y. P. M. S. which was the only active one in 1915 and at this convention have reported a Cradle Roll, thus being the first auxiliary to have a full organization, although Warren came forward in 1916 with all auxiliaries organized in their first report. Plans were made for doing more effective work in interesting and organizing Y. P. M. S. and Mission Band auxiliaries.

Mrs. Thompson asked to be relieved from the office of Librarian which she had filled for a number of years and Mrs. Z. Miesse Dunlap was elected to that office; she was also the delegate to Woman's Board which convened in Findlay in October. Mrs. H. B. Masters was elected treasurer. Miss Graeff gave a very interesting address illustrated by lantern slides on Friday evening. Rev. Stanley Vandersall very acceptably preached the missionary sermons on Sunday. Communion was always administered some time during each convention. The following is quoted from a Presiding Elder report in the 1915 Conference Journal:

"As for the work of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society we can say there is much to be commended. Real, substantial progress has been made during the year, but it is,

we believe, only a drop in the bucket of what it should be in the Ohio Conference. Our prayer is that the God of Israel may raise up the loyal sisterhood of our conference to fill a larger place in this all-important field of Christian service."

"HELP THOSE WOMEN"

1916

The action of a combined committee of W. H. and F. M. S. officers with officers of the Conference Missionary Society in February, 1916 shows both pastors and women, awakening to the need of strenuous action. The women were in executive session at the home of Mrs. Mathias in Akron, planning for the next convention. An invitation had been received from the Columbus East Eighth Avenue Society which was accepted; the dates selected were June 22 to 25 inclusive, giving two days instead of one for business. The Conference Committee was then introduced and presented plans for co-operation which were indorsed. Each local auxiliary was to try for a ten per cent increase in membership, the men offering a banner to the auxiliary having the highest per cent of increase. The conference plan for institute work was also presented and indorsed, permitting their committee to select some one from the W. H. and F. M. S. to attend the institute and represent the Branch work.

Detailed information as to these institutes has been unavailable, except that on Akron District two were held, one at Manchester and one at Fairhope. On Columbus District there were three, at Cedar Hill, Republic and Manchester. Suffice it to say much missionary interest was stirred up. Missionaries Suhr, Dunlap and Ginter were home on furlough and were a very great help in creating missionary enthusiasm.

Quoting from the 1916 Journal: "The W. M. S. is deserving of much commendation forthe persistency of their labors in the face of a multitude of opposing forces,should have a larger place in the sympathy of the brotherhood of the church.....We are also persuaded that a few of the pastors need a little keener appreciation of the real need of a W. M. S. on every charge in the conference. As shepherds of the flock committed to our care, our ambition should not rest until this high purpose is realized."

Co-operation and team work had been much needed and the women of W. H. and F. M. S. were very grateful for the new interest being shown by the missionary committee of the conference in the Branch work and it had already been productive of much good as was shown in the very beginning of the 1916 convention. The aim had been for a ten per cent gain in membership and a gain of twenty-four per cent had been made. The banner which had been offered the auxiliary having the largest per cent of gain, went to the youngest society, Akron, Grace (The Hustlers)for doubling their membership with a 100 per cent gain. Miss Graeff again presented the efficiency plan which was adopted at this time. Definite plans were made for raising money for the Emma M. Dubs hospital. A recommendation was made that every delegate urge their local auxiliaries to secure the honorary membership of the men of their church, realizing that would be beneficial both to the men and the society. A motion was carried that \$50.00 be placed at the disposal of the executive committee to be used in the extension of the work, and also that the Branch co-operate with the institute work again. The work of the Y. P. M. S., Mission Band and Cradle Roll departments had shown a marked improvement in the past year and all W. M. S. auxiliaries were urged to organize such departments as soon as possible. Warren and Johnsville auxiliaries were added that year. The young people helped this convention materially in song and a cantata rendered.

A pleasant incident of the convention was a reminiscent talk by Rev. Andrew Swartz, then eighty-four years "young" in which he told of the very beginnings of the Woman's Missionary Society in the Evangelical Church, he having been the pastor of Cleveland, Calvary Church in 1880 and 1881 and in accord with the movement of the women for privilege to organize, one of the earliest societies being in his church. This church was also the scene of the first "Woman's Missionary Convention" of the Evangelical Church in 1884. Mrs. Sarah Ernest Snyder rendered excellent service and endeared herself to all through her address on Western Missions and her soul stirring sermons on the Sabbath Day.

Rev. H. V. Summers was the pastor and was a gracious host. At this convention there had been nineteen woman's aux-

iliaries reported with 567 members and \$2,029.00 secured which was a financial gain of 68%. There were two Y. P. M. S. auxiliaries, the Iva Guiley Dunlap at Akron, First and the Grace Ludwig Smoke at Warren; eight Mission Bands and two Cradle Rolls. Mrs. W. S. Mathias succeeded Mrs. Templin as president. Miss Lenore Harpster was elected superintendent Y. P. M. S. and Mission Study classes; Mrs. P. F. DeVaux, Superintendent Cradle Rolls and Organizer.

CO-OPERATIVE MISSIONARY INSTITUTES HELP

An executive meeting was held in December and plans were made for the year. An invitation to meet at Warren the next year was accepted. The committee decided to present banners to the Y. P. M. S. and Mission Band having the largest per cent of gain in membership as well as to the W. M. S. Also, a banner was to be given to the W. M. S., Y. P. M. S. and Mission Band for the largest amount per member for foreign work. These banners later created a great deal of friendly rivalry and enthusiasm among the different societies. Miss Harpster was to use a week during the first part of the year in the interest of Y. P. M. S. and Mission Study classes. The corresponding secretary was instructed to recommend the auxiliaries to contribute toward the African fund.

Officers of the Conference Missionary Society, N. W. Sager, G. A. Smith and L. R. Herbst met with the committee in the interest of missionary work. The Branch committee decided to pay the expenses of Mrs. Sarah Ernest Snyder, Field Secretary, that she might assist in the institute work in the interest of the W. H. and F. M. S. Mrs. Z. Miesse Dunlap was appointed assistant organizer and she, with Mrs. Snyder went with the institute team on the Akron District and Mrs. P. E. Smoke and Mrs. N. W. Sager on the Columbus District. The following is an account of the institutes as copied from the report of Rev. L. R. Herbst in the Conference Journal:

“Missionary Institutes—During the year missionary institutes were held in almost every church in our conference. Addresses were given and conferences held at each appointment in the afternoon and evening. Good missionary literature, furnished by the Ohio Branch Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was distributed at each place visited. Sub-

scriptions were taken for our various church periodicals. The interest of the people was encouraging and the results obtained speak well for this kind of work. Twelve new Woman's Missionary Societies were organized as a result of these institutes."

In this connection we beg permission to add that two Y. P. M. S., one at Columbus, East Eighth Avenue and one at Akron, Grace, two Mission Bands, two Cradle Rolls and one Home Department were also organized during the year. Mrs. H. D. Shultz had been delegate to the Annual Conference in 1916 and in her address had emphasized to the pastors the need of a special effort for these departments, also encouraging M. O. C. work.

1917

At Warren Ohio in June 1917 the Branch met with a hearty welcome from Pastor DeVaux and people. 33 officers responded to roll call at first session. The church was very appropriately decorated with flags and flowers. The shadow of impending war could not be evaded, from which all hearts were sad, yet a spirit of gladness was evident because of the success of missionary work and organization during the past year. "There is a manifest increase of interest in our conference, both among the ministry and the lay people in the missionary propaganda of our church. This may be largely attributed to the special work which is being done through the Executive Committee of the Conference Missionary Society and the work of the Ohio Branch of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society." "The Ohio Branch held daily missionary conferences at each of the camp meetings this year. These conferences were well attended; the interest was good and they added another feature by which our people may become informed about our missionary activities and work."

There were direct results to the Branch from these special efforts; in the W. M. S. alone the membership was increased to 771, a net gain of 204 and \$3,123.00 raised, which was a gain of 54%. Ohio Branch ranked first in number of auxiliaries gained during the year and third in average amount of money raised per member, which was \$4.05. We were now entitled to two delegates to the Woman's Board and Mrs. Mathias and Mrs. Sager were selected to go.

Y. P. M. S. TO THE FRONT

However the new growth was not confined to the Woman's department. In Y. P. M. S. the number of auxiliaries was doubled and the amount contributed to missions was trebled. Akron, First, which was organized in November, 1908 and Warren, organized in September, 1915, welcomed Akron, Grace, organized January, 1917, and Columbus, East Eighth Avenue, organized February, 1917. For the first time the influence of the Y. P. M. S. was felt in a special way in the convention. The local auxiliary gave a play, *The Slave Girl*, the first evening and afterward gave a reception to the whole convention.

There were delegates in attendance from the other auxiliaries and a separate Y. P. M. S. rally was held. Fortunately, Miss Marie Hasenpflug, whose support had been the special work of the young people since 1910, was on furlough and present to make more real, the sense of obligation in raising funds for this work. It gave the young people quite a thrill to have their "own missionary" to talk to them. Two banners went to the Iva Guiley Dunlap society. Two Mission Bands were organized, two Cradle Rolls and one Home Department during the year.

The convention was highly favored in having Rev. and Mrs. Dunlap and Miss Hasenpflug, who were home on furlough, present over the last days. This was an especial treat, as Miss Hasenpflug and Mrs. Dunlap had gone out from the Ohio Branch; the messages they brought gave us a better understanding of the work and the great need of consecration and prayer in behalf of the missionaries if we would see our desires for China Mission fulfilled. Rev. N. W. Sager, Presiding Elder of Akron District, attended the entire convention, preached on Sunday morning and administered communion. Both W. M. S. banners were carried off by the Akron, Grace auxiliaries and Akron, First Mission Band was awarded the pennant for the largest amount of money per member. Mrs. F. A. Firestone was elected recording secretary and Mrs. Z. Miesse Dunlap, Organizer of Columbus District. The new auxiliaries were, St. Johns at Carey, Bethany at Canton, Calvary and Trinity at Cedar Hill, East Liberty, Freeburg, Greensburg, McDonalds-ville, Manchester, New Zion, Republic, Robertsville.

1918

The convention was entertained at Carey in 1918. Rev. H. D. Shultz was the pastor. Blue and gold had been adopted at the executive meeting as Branch colors and the church was beautifully decorated accordingly, a large W. M. S. emblem being uniquely wrought out in the colors. Twenty-eight officers and delegates responded to roll call. Communion was observed on Friday morning, Rev. R. A. Sain officiating. Reports of 1918 showed three new woman's auxiliaries and an increase in membership and offerings although the average per member was not quite as large as the previous year. Three new Mission Bands were reported but three of the old ones failed to report. Miss Graeff who was present in the interest of the Literature, presented the "Spend a day with our missionaries" plan. An efficiency secretary was recommended for each local auxiliary in the interest of more thorough work and Mrs. William Staley was made Efficiency Secretary of the Branch. \$3,264.00 were secured for the year.

Akron, Grace again received the banner for the largest increase in membership; their enrollment being eighty-four which made them the largest auxiliary in Ohio Branch at that time. The efficiency pennant went to Akron, First, they having 132 points in efficiency. Akron, First Y. P. M. S. and Mission Band both received pennants for largest increase in membership; Warren Y. P. M. S. for largest amount of money per member for foreign work. Mrs. Hickman, a well known worker in the early life of the Woodland Avenue, Cleveland auxiliary was a delegate to this convention and conducted the devotional period on Sunday evening.

Addresses were given during the convention by Mrs. Mathias, Mrs. Sager and Miss Graeff. Rev. W. M. Davis preached the annual missionary sermon on Sunday morning and in the afternoon all were taken to one of the country appointments to listen to Rev. Shambaugh of China who also addressed the convention at Carey in the evening.

1919

The Nineteenth Annual Convention of the Ohio Branch met in the Bethany Church, Canton, O., June 1919 with 42

officers and delegates present, every society but two being represented. The church was tastefully decorated with the Branch colors. The first session was Thursday afternoon and in the devotional period, Mrs. DeVaux spoke on "Praise" and Mrs. Firestone's subject was prayer. Letters of greeting were read from Mrs. Gruhler, president of the Woman's Board; Mrs. Iva Dunlap of Changsha, China, and Rev. and Mrs. Guinter of Wukari, W. Africa. The pastor, Rev. Shultz, extended the greetings of the church and Mrs. Collins of the local society; Mrs. H. B. Masters responding. Mrs. Mathias brought a very helpful message to the delegates.

A happy privilege it was, to have Miss Minnie Gohn (now Mrs. C. N. Dubs) and Mrs. Sarah Ernest Snyder present throughout the convention. In a very interesting manner, Miss Gohn described the homes and schools of China; also telling of our mission work there and making a strong plea for its support. Mrs. Snyder conducted an enthusiastic and inspiring conference on missionary work Saturday afternoon. She delivered the annual missionary sermon on Sunday morning, using the text, "Tarry ye until ye be endued with power," in the evening her subject was, "The fellowship of suffering."

Rev. H. V. Summers, Presiding Elder of the Columbus District, conducted a blessed communion service on Friday morning. He also presented a request from the executive committee of the Ohio Conference Missionary Society that the Branch make their president a member of said committee, which request was complied with. Ohio was the first Branch to be so represented. The "Forward Movement" as outlined by our church was presented by Rev. Summers, embracing the establishing of a family altar in every home, to increase the attendance at prayer meeting and to secure thirty thousand tithers throughout our Church in the United States. This movement was heartily endorsed by the Ohio Branch.

The Branch had been growing! To the extent that it was becoming difficult to entertain, therefore it was found necessary to limit the representation to one adult delegate for each auxiliary member: namely, each W. M. S., Y. P. M. S. and Mission Band. Although two of the auxiliaries failed to report, there was an increase in membership, money secured and the average per member, which was \$5.00.

Not the least interesting part of the convention were the Y. P. M. S. and Mission Band rallies. Mrs. N. W. Sager, the superintendent, had charge of the Y. P. M. S. rally and it was held on Saturday evening. Three societies were represented. The report gave 78 members and a total of \$436.00 raised, making an average of \$5.59 per member which was more than the average per member in the W. M. S.; the Grace Ludwig Smoke society of Warren had the honor of the highest average per member for foreign work, which was \$6.16 for which they were awarded the pennant; the Iva Guiley Dunlap society of Akron, First received the banner for the highest number of points in efficiency which was 108; the other society represented was Akron, North Hill, newly organized. Miss Minnie Gohn and Mrs. Snyder both made strong appeals to the young people to give themselves for service in the missionary work.

The rally for the Mission Band was held on Sunday afternoon; there were representatives from seven Mission Bands and they were quite happy when Miss Gohn appeared in Chinese costume to speak to them; she showed them many curious Chinese articles and delighted them by presenting each child with a pair of Chinese chopsticks. There were thirteen societies reported and they had raised \$604.00. Akron, First Band received the pennant for the highest average per member for foreign work, with an average of \$3.67. Canton, First deserves mention for an average of \$2.40 per member for foreign work. They also gave an Oratorical Contest during the year. The pennant for largest increase in membership went to Akron, North Hill. Mrs. Ella B. Ackley, the efficient secretary of Mission Bands, had been elected in 1918.

The W. M. S. banner for largest average gift per member to foreign missions was awarded to Akron, Grace, their average being \$11.10. Cleveland, East Boulevard W. M. S. received the banner for the highest increase in membership. Canton, First received a banner for the highest number of points in efficiency which was 165. Mrs. H. B. Masters and Mrs. DeVaux were elected as delegates to Woman's Board.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

1920 would be the twentieth anniversary of the organization of Ohio (United) Branch and plans were being made to

celebrate. The history of the Branch was to be completed up to date, the first ten years having been given at the previous convention. In January 1919, the executive committee had decided to recommend to the next convention, that as a special feature of the anniversary, a linen shower be given for the United Evangelical Home at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, each society to bring a gift. However, worthy a cause this might have been, Ohio (United) Branch was able and anxious to do greater things and the decision was made at the convention to raise \$1,000.00 to install a sterilizer at the Liling Hospital as an anniversary gift, each member of each local auxiliary to be asked to contribute \$1.00. There were 934 members; could this be accomplished? "According to your faith, be it unto you."

All were happy as the convention assembled at Johnsville in June of 1920. The church was fragrant with flowers, and the pastor's wife, Mrs. William Henry in the welcome address, gave a royal welcome in behalf of the local auxiliary to which fitting response was made by Mrs. F. A. Firestone. The Branch president, Mrs. Mathias, gave an excellent and helpful message the first evening; on Friday morning, after a heart to heart talk by Presiding Elder Rev. H. V. Summers, the communion service was held. The intercessory periods by Mrs. Sager throughout the whole time were seasons of spiritual refreshing and led to a deeper consecration.

One of the pleasures of the convention was the presence of Miss Cora Hobein of Liling, China and Miss Emma Messenger, Editor of Tidings. Miss Hobein gave an address on Friday evening which was a graphic description of the trouble at Liling and Liling Hospital during the war which had been in progress in China about that time. She also addressed the convention Sunday afternoon. Miss Messenger's wise counsel meant much to us. The conference for Y. P. M. S., Mission Bands and M. O. C. work on Saturday afternoon were made very interesting and profitable by her efficient help. Two new Young People's Societies had been organized during the year, one at Canton, First and one at Canton, Bethany.

The annual Efficiency reports by districts brought enthusiasm and a greater striving for efficiency in the local auxiliaries and much better work had been done by the societies. Since

the Kreeker organizing fund had been transferred to the support of a field secretary, it was decided that the amount per member for the Branch contingent fund should be raised from ten cents to twenty-five cents, that the work of organizing new societies and the general work of the Branch might be carried on.

Contributions continued to come in for the Emma M. Dubs Memorial Hospital and the Remer and Voss Memorial Wards which, as special objects had already been covered, therefore these surplus gifts were hereafter to flow through the Faith Fund, reminding us of Exodus 36: 6, 7, "So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much."

Mrs. H. D. Schultz who had been corresponding secretary for ten years asked to be relieved from the office. She was Mission Band superintendent in the General Society at that time. Mrs. William Henry was elected to fill the place.

The anniversary service was on Saturday evening. "Essentials to happiness" was the subject Mrs. Sager used in the intercessory period. The "Branch History" was given by Mrs. Harpster and "Our Twentieth Anniversary" by Mrs. Sager. Mrs. Mathias, in a happy manner, told of "Our Anniversary Gift" of \$1,000.00 for a sterilizer for Liling Hospital. When the amounts were all gathered in, the sum total was \$1,027.22. Using a familiar expression of those times, we "had gone over the top," and soon began planning for a sterilizer for the Emma M. Dubs Hospital. The culmination of this service was a never to be forgotten message by Miss Messenger which gripped all hearts with a new zeal for missions.

There had been four new auxiliaries reported: Henrietta, Loy's Corners, Franklin Heights and Webber Road (Como Avenue) of Columbus. The little mission at Webber Road had just been organized in October, 1919 with a few members, and the W. M. S. which was organized very soon afterwards, included every member of the church, either as an active or an associate member and every home represented, received the Tidings. From this little society, in February 1921, Miss Anna Bergman and Mrs. Lenore Harpster Lutz, who had also been members of the East Eighth Avenue Y. P. M. S., and Dexter N. Lutz and baby Margaret, who was one of the first Cradle

Roll babies, went to Pyongyang, Korea to engage in missionary work there.

Mrs. Sarah Ernest Snyder who had made such a large place in the hearts of the United group, arrived Saturday evening, with her "most inexhaustable budget" of missionary information and enthusiasm, in time to fill her place on the program for the Sabbath day. The Sunday services were a little out of the ordinary in that all officers and delegates were conveyed by auto to the little country church, St. Paul, for the entire morning service. All listened with rapt attention to Mrs. Snyder whose lips seemed to have been touched with a "live coal from off the altar" as she brought the message "The Secret of the Triumphant Life." In the evening at Grace church her subject was "Fishers of Men." Life membership pledges were taken before this service closed.

Banners and pennants were awarded as follows: W. M. S.; Efficiency, Canton, First, 165 points; largest amount per member for foreign work, Akron, Grace, \$9.11; largest increase in membership, Carey, Memorial Y. P. M. S.; Efficiency, Akron, First 132 points; largest amount per member for foreign work, Warren, \$9.95; largest increase in membership, Warren. Mission Bands: Largest increase in membership, Canton, First; largest amount per member for foreign work, Akron, First \$8.50. The largest W. M. S. auxiliary in 1920 was Lancaster with 78 members. Ohio ranked fifth among the Branches as to number of auxiliaries and members as well as amount of money raised. There were thirty-five auxiliaries on the list but only thirty sent in a report to the convention; two of these were a permanent loss as those churches were abandoned. There were six Y. P. M. S., eleven Mission Bands, five Cradle Rolls and one home department reported. While the number of auxiliaries in the different departments fluctuates and some are short lived, yet they are bright spots along the way and some seed is sure to fall on fertile soil, bringing forth a harvest in God's own time.

The following, written for this occasion was read by Mrs. N. W. Sager, who was also the author.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE W. H. AND

F. M. S., OHIO (UNITED) BRANCH

*Most gladly we tell of the organization
Of our W. M. S. at the Highland Park Camp;
In the year Nineteen Hundred the work was effected,
Which firmly established our Ohio Branch.
The foundation was laid of lasting material
With Christ, our Redeemer, the Chief Corner Stone,
And the building endowed with highest endeavor,
Will stand every test of the years yet to come.*

*The officers chosen were women of valor,
Who nobly responded to duty's clear call;
With faith and with prayer they bravely went forward,
Not fearful, but ready with purpose to toil.
Good cheer and keen vision enlightened the pathway,
No doubt as to whither their efforts would lead;
One note was their watchword, a note of real value,
How God loved the world when the world was in need.*

*Their motive for action was, "Love for thy neighbor,"
For Christ and the Church was the banner unfurled;
They lifted it high that the nations in darkness
Might learn of a Savior who loved the whole world.
The story, so precious, must reach out to millions,
The great cause of Missions demanding their aid;
"Why stand ye here idle?" The harvest is waiting,
"Go, work in my vineyard," the Master has said.*

*These labors, begun in the strength of Jehovah,
Have richly been blessed both abroad and at home;
The years, in their passing, bear record of service,
Of courage undaunted and victories won;
For souls once benighted, now live in the sunlight,
Who never had heard of a conquering Lord;
In freedom rejoicing, they, too, tell the story
And rest on the promises found in His Word.*

*In line of succession, the Presidents serving
Were, first Mrs. Sherrick, who wrought with great care;
Then came Mrs. Templin, abounding in spirit,
Who, many years graced the executive chair.
The mantle then fell upon Mrs. Mathias,
Our present incumbent, whose zeal we well know.
We thank the dear Father for these splendid leaders
To whom greatest praise and much honor is due.*

*And others there were who were valiant in battle,
And others there are who are faithful today;
To mention each one would exceed the time limit,
But for work each has done God will amply repay;
For many are giving most valuable service,
And many have followed His well ordered Plan;
Combining their labors, they help build the structure,
"Which bridges the chasm between God and man."*

*From out of our forces, to faraway China,
Some went forth to 'stablish a Kingdom of Love;
They're telling of Jesus, the wonderful Savior,
Who brought peace and pardon from heaven above.
They're lifting our brother from out of the shadows,
They're placing his feet on the Rock which will stand,
Till, led by the Spirit, beside the still waters,
He catches the vision of God's Promised Land.*

*How precious to serve in the name of the Master,
The clear Gospel call to obey with delight;
In his Name to conquer, and carry glad tidings,
That millions, now Christless, may see "a great light."
'Tis thus we move onward, the outlook grows brighter,
Our toiling for souls, it will not be in vain;
The harvest is ready, and, when it is garnered
His Kingdom will come and Christ Jesus will reign.*

*We want to acknowledge God's goodness in leading;
Through these twenty years He has shown us the way;
In days yet to come we shall not forget Him
But look up and trust Him forever and aye.*

*We'll gird on the armor with new strength and vigor,
 March on to the front, overcoming defeat;
 We'll lay on the altar our gifts and our treasures
 In willing surrender, so full and complete.*

*Our Ohio Branch, may God help us press forward,
 Enlarging the borders of Zion's fair land.
 Our Ohio Branch which enlisted for orders
 To help carry out the Lord's final command.
 Our Ohio Branch, in the thick of the conflict
 Where He wants us to be, there may we be found,
 Till God in His wisdom, shall gather all nations,
 To sing hallelujahs around His Great Throne.*

*It's the wide spreading Branch-including all nations,
 It's the far reaching Branch-with a message to tell.
 It's the enduring Branch-under every condition,
 It's the Ohio Branch which we all love so well.*

Mrs. N. W. Sager, 1920, Wooster, Ohio.

OHIO (UNITED), 1920-1925. CONCLUSION

THE preceeding part of this little sketch was prepared for the "Twentieth Anniversary" of Ohio (United) Branch at Johnsville, Ohio, June 1920, and five more years have passed with their work and changes. Recommendations had been passed regarding the opening of a mission in Kentucky, at the meeting of the Woman's Board at Lancaster Ohio, in October 1920, which so soon became a large object of the Faith Fund, dear to the hearts of W. H. and F. M. S. Mrs. Snyder had again made a trip through Ohio organizing a number of societies; among these new societies was a W. M. S. at Youngstown, which was warmly welcomed back into the fold by the Branch, as they had been among the few auxiliaries in the beginning. A Y. P. M. S. was organized at Lancaster which lived, grew and flourished.

1921

June 16-19, 1921 the annual convention was in Akron, Grace Church. In the absence of Mrs. Firestone, Mrs. W. T.

Dickson of Akron was appointed to take her place. The devotionals throughout were conducted by Mrs. DeVaux and Mrs. W. E. Henry and were seasons of refreshing. Communion was observed on Friday morning conducted by Rev. H. V. Summers. The year had been a successful one. It was a great privilege to have present, Miss Emma Messenger, Editor of Tidings, and Mrs. H. E. Voss of Siangtan, China, each of whom was a great inspiration both in counsel and splendid addresses.

The Saturday evening service was largely for the young people with music and readings by them and an address by Miss Messenger which was an inspiration to all who had the privilege of hearing her. The banners were awarded to the Y. P. M. Societies as follows: Largest increase in membership, Akron, Grace. Largest amount per member for foreign work, Warren. Efficiency, Akron, First. Mrs. L. R. (Blanche Groves) Herbst had been elected superintendent Y. P. M. S. in 1920, had made plans for the work and prepared her report for the convention but was taken ill and sent her report which was read by Miss Ica Keck. All were saddened to hear of her passing over about the time of the closing of the convention. Mrs. Ella B. Ackley was elected to that office for the ensuing year.

The pastor, Rev. Irvin Kauffman, led the devotions on Sunday morning and Miss Emma Messenger gave a message, earnest in its appeal for service. A Mission Band Rally was held on Sunday afternoon in charge of the superintendent, Mrs. Shultz, the three Bands of Akron each having active part on the program in song or exercise. There were six delegates in attendance. The pennant for largest amount per member for foreign work went to Akron, First Band and for greatest increase in membership, to Canton, Trinity. Mrs. Voss gave an address to the children who were eager to hear of the children in far away China and much interested in their customs. By a happy coincidence, the day was also the birthday of Mrs. Voss, so a birthday cake was prepared for her and a "love token" of money given her. Mrs. W. M. Davis was elected superintendent of Mission Bands for the ensuing year.

After a fine address in the evening by Mrs. Voss, banners were awarded the W. M. S. as follows: Largest increase in membership, Canton, First. Largest amount per member for foreign

work, Freeburg, \$5.92. Efficiency, Akron, First. After this, life membership pledges were received.

At the same time of this convention, the Ohio Branch of the Evangelical Association was convening at the Akron, Calvary Church. Hearts had been stirred as to the advisability of a closer affiliation of these two sister branches and longing to see this come to pass. It was the good pleasure of the writer to be entrusted with greetings to bear to them and, in company with Miss Messenger, was cordially received. Mrs. E. M. Spreng and Mrs. Hammer reciprocated by coming to the United group with greetings from the Ohio Branch.

The Young People's Missionary Societies were urged to make a thorough canvass of their membership during the coming year to secure as many days as possible in the "Spend a day with our Missionary" plan. The special Branch work for the coming year was to be the beginning of a fund for a sterilizer for the Emma M. Dubs Hospital.

1922

An invitation from the Cedar Hill W. M. S. had been received for the Branch convention which was gladly accepted. Cedar Hill is in Pickaway County, not far from the historical "House of Moyer" where the first conference of the Evangelical Association in Ohio was held in 1840. The beautiful country section around Cedar Hill is dear to the hearts of many of the ministers and families. The little church at Cedar Hill was the home church of Rev. Everette Williamson and his wife, Corinth Campbell Williamson, and from here they went to Japan in 1924.

Mrs. D. C. Barrick, wife of the local pastor, gave a hearty welcome and Mrs. Henry responded. Rev. E. E. Haskins of Lancaster gave an earnest message on personal responsibility and home mission work on the first evening. Mrs. Firestone was again unable to be present and Mrs. Caughman of Findlay was elected recording secretary and served one year when Mrs. Firestone was again elected. This convention recommended that several neighboring auxiliaries might assemble in a joint meeting sometime during the year; this was followed up with much profit in a number of places. There had been some discussion as to how much the auxiliaries should appropriate to the home conference and it was decided that an amount not exceeding 25%

of the dues should be so appropriated. No record of banners was found for that year.

The reports for the year were 373 readers of Missionary Tidings, thirty-one Woman's Missionary Societies with a membership of 990; six Young Peoples' Societies, fourteen Mission Bands, seven Cradle Rolls and one Home Department. A total of \$7,500.00 was raised during the year. Canton First reported 113 members in their Woman's auxiliary at that time. The sterilizer fund was not quite completed and was continued and completed during the next year. The Round Table, conducted by Mrs. Henry and a workers' conference led by Miss Graeff presented many new and helpful suggestions. In his address, Rev. Blake Masters said the W. M. S. was probably the greatest live wire in the church, and should have the earnest support of every pastor. During this convention, the orchestra of Lancaster church, led by Dr. B. G. Illes, gave splendid service. The Y. P. M. S. of Lancaster, also gave a little missionary play, "Two Masters" which was very interesting, and should leave a lasting impression for good.

The great treat of this convention was in having Mrs. B. E. Niebel of Liling, China present. Her subject on Friday was "Our Medical Mission Work in China" and on Sunday evening, "Our Hospitals." She captivated the large audiences by her recital of the unselfish service and work done in the Liling Hospital in which she and Dr. Niebel labor. She stated 95,000 patients had been helped in the few years of their service there. As she told of the wonderful work being accomplished in the hospitals by the medical missionaries, not only in ministering to the body, but every patient being told the story of Jesus, as he sits awaiting his turn for treatment, we were glad to have had a part in equipping those hospitals.

Miss Graeff gave an illustrated lecture on China, Africa and the Mountaineer work in Kentucky which was very instructive and greatly enjoyed. The convention was favored in the attendance of an unusual number of ministers. Rev. Shultz administered communion Friday morning and Rev. Masters preached Sunday morning.

A feature of Sunday was an old fashioned picnic dinner under the evergreens on the parsonage lawn that all the country side might be present all day at the services.

October following the Cedar Hill convention in June, saw the culmination of efforts that had been made for several years to have the two branches of the Evangelical Church united after a separation of thirty-two years. After the General Conference which perfected this, a joint meeting of the Woman's Boards was held in Cleveland and they, too, were merged, although the Ohio and Ohio (United) Branches of W. H. and F. M. S. continued to work separately until the merging of the two Ohio conferences.

1923

In June 1923, the United Branch assembled at Youngstown and a royal welcome was received from the good people of Youngstown church. The convention was one of uplifting all the way through. The annual message of the president, Mrs. Mathias, was based on the Bible story of the little lad with his five barley loaves and two fishes; "Bringing our Little to Jesus," confident in the knowledge that even though our gifts be small or our talents few, if willingly given, our efforts will be honored by the Master. Mrs. E. M. Spreng, president of the merged General Society, was present from the beginning, giving a greeting at the first session after which the convention joined in singing "Together for Jesus we go." Her wise and loving council all the way through meant much to the United Branch and was a great help in the new relations which were soon to be assumed.

In one of her heart to heart talks she said "our *stops* as well as our *steps* are ordered of God." Often the little interruptions which fret us, are opportunities, which in our rush and hurry we have been unable to see. She came, a stranger to most of the delegates, she went, a dear friend to all; those few days association with her, will always be held as a sacred memory.

Mrs. Hobson, president of the Ohio Branch brought greetings. Rev. H. V. Summers conducted communion service Friday morning. In the evening Presiding Elder D. L. Caldwell brought a message fraught with a call to real missionary work.

"We were particularly grateful that Rev. C. W. Ginter of Wukari, Africa could be with us. How he inspired all his hearers with the magnitude and the needs of the African field, so dear to him. Where is our faith, if we as missionary workers fail to support this field to the fullest extent of our ability?"

As we followed his graphic descriptions of the work and the people among whom he is so earnestly laboring, surely we felt a need of doing so much more for this work."

At the meeting of the boards in Cleveland it had been agreed that the work of the Young People's Missionary Society and the Young People's Missionary Circle would be continued under the name of the latter.

The young people had an active part in the convention program. The Youngstown young people and the Warren Missionary Circle gave instructive pageants and furnished special music. On Saturday evening, a Gold Medal contest was held, participated in by the different Circles over the Branch that had given Silver Medal contests during the year. The medal was awarded Miss Marie Knight, contestant from Akron, Grace Circle.

This had been a good year. Three new auxiliaries had been organized, Smith's Corners, Baltimore and Niles. Baltimore had been an active society in the early years but since 1910 had reported as an Aid Society, therefore the writer was happy to have the privilege of reorganizing them as a Woman's Missionary Society in 1923. The banner for greatest per cent of increase in membership went to Henrietta; largest amount per member for foreign work to Canton, First, Efficiency: Akron, First.

Mrs. DeVaux was elected secretary of tithing and Mrs. Davis, secretary of thank offering; Mrs. Mathias, fraternal delegate to the Ohio Branch of the former Evangelical Association. Mrs. Mathias, Mrs. DeVaux and Mrs. Masters were appointed to meet with the committee from the Ohio and Erie Branches to formulate plans for the merging of the branches, at the call of the general president, Mrs. E. M. Spreng, this to be operative upon the merging of the conferences, which did not occur until September, 1924.

The treasurer, Mrs. Masters, reported a total of about \$8,500.00 raised during the year. "We left the convention with the warmest feeling of friendship and co-operation, and best wishes to the Sarah Ernest Snyder Auxiliary at Youngstown, ready and anxious to begin the next year's work of bringing our little to Jesus, that he might use it to feed the multitude."

1924

In June 1924 the convention was held at East Liberty. During this convention the efficient and faithful president, Mrs. Mathias was detained at home because of illness, only being able to attend one session; Mrs. DeVaux, the vice-president, was equal to the occasion and ably filled the chair. Mrs. Templin, secretary Little Herald and Home Department, was also ill and unable to attend; Mrs. Templin has been an officer in the United Branch ever since its organization, having served as president for thirteen years and never before having missed but one convention.

Communion services were conducted by Presiding Elder H. V. Summers, on Thursday evening and by Friday morning a busy band of women were at work. Forty-eight were enrolled.

Mrs. Nauman brought greetings from Ohio Branch and gave a very interesting talk on Saturday afternoon, her subject being, "Glimpses of Japan." Saturday evening was again given over to the Young People's Circles, they having had entire charge of the evening's program. The playlet by the local Circle and directed by the pastor's wife, Mrs. J. J. Hine, was especially well prepared. A splendid demonstration of the ability and devotion of the young people was seen in the work of the local, and neighboring Circles. All banners went to Akron, First Circle. An interesting new Circle had been organized at Fairhope by Mrs. H. V. Summers." Reports showed a good increase. The amount of money raised being about \$10,330.00, nearly seven times as much as was raised in 1915 when Mrs. Masters became treasurer.

The help of Brother Niebel, who was present throughout the convention and presented the Kentucky Mission, which is so dear to him, as well as to the entire W. H. and F. M. S., was highly appreciated. He also very ably preached the convention sermon on Sunday morning. Brother Niebel was always a welcome visitor to Ohio United Branch.

We were highly favored in having Mrs. C. W. Guinter of Wukari, Africa with us, and our hearts were stirred to the depths as we listened to her messages, recounting the difficulties of the work and her eagerness to return to the field, even though her going would demand sacrifices that few would be

willing to make. "I beseech every one, who reads this, to lift up your heart to the Father to bless our missionaries in West Africa as well as in China and in Japan and may we all strive with a new fervor to help to the utmost."

1925

"Together for Jesus we go."

Whatever of success this Branch has attained in the years of service, credit not only is due the tireless efforts of the officers and those who took part in discussions, committee work or program, but to each individual in the local auxiliaries who has had any part in furthering the work not the least of which has been gracious hospitality. The ladies of the different churches where the conventions have been held, have almost vied with each other in beautiful decorations of the church, greetings of welcome and sumptuously entertaining the conventions. Almost always there was a reception on the first evening and from 1912, when Rev. and Mrs. Shultz opened the parsonage at Findlay for meals, these have usually been served in the church dining room or somewhere near, where all had the privilege and fellowship of breaking bread together.

The "Ohio" and "Ohio United" conferences were merged in September, 1924, opening the way for the merging of the two W. M. S. branches at the time of the next convention. We had labored together as the Ohio United Branch of the W. H. and F. M. S. for twenty-five years, as we assembled together at Kenmore Boulevard Church in 1925, prepared to enter into fellowship with a larger body of workers and to face larger responsibilities. We had reached another milestone. Had our work been well done?

At the time of the merging, Ohio United Branch numbered thirty-three Woman's auxiliaries, eleven Young People's Missionary Circles, a new one having been organized at Miller Avenue by Mrs. H. V. Summers, fourteen Mission Bands, sixteen Cradle Rolls and one Home Department; a total of \$10,363.00 raised for missions during the year, and a loyal devoted band of women ready to serve in the new relations and larger opportunities of the merged Branch which was being entered.

There was a fine enthusiastic constituency of Young People's Circles but records have not been available to permit of a

full history being written of them. The most of the Oratorical Contests, although there have not been many in the Branch, have been given in the Young People's Circles, making it possible to have Gold Medal contests at several of the branch conventions. It would be very interesting to give the names of the Circles and individuals contesting, but no such records have been found; however, many remember a dear blind girl of Akron who helped more than once, and the sweet spirit in which she participated. Upon the young people of today, the church depends for the leadership of tomorrow and we have faith that they will not disappoint us.

The following is a list of Young People's Circles with the dates of organization, at the time of the merging in 1925: Akron, First, 1908; Warren, 1915; Akron, Grace, 1917; Columbus, East Eighth Avenue, 1917; Akron, North Hill, 1918; Canton, Grace, 1920; Canton, Bethany, 1921; Fairhope, 1924; East Liberty, 1924; Columbus, Miller Avenue, 1925; Canton, Trinity, 1925.

The address of Mrs. Mathias at Kenmore was an inspiration, constraining us to forget "those things which are behind" and reach "forth unto those thing which are before," and to press forward to the goal of our high calling, missions in Christ Jesus.

The United Branch had been growing along the years, and as new growth in the vine brings forth fruit, so also has Christ honored the new growth in our Branch. There are now in our own foreign field from our own ranks, Miss Marie Hasenpflug and Mrs. Iva Guiley Dunlap. The Williamsons also went from our United Branch, having belonged to the Cedar Hill Society, and are laboring in Japan. Although Mrs. Bertha Hasenpflug Stick is under another board in Africa, she went from our society in Brownhelm and although Miss Anna Bergman and Mr. and Mrs. Lutz are working under the Presbyterian Board, by a peculiar turn of circumstances, they are as truly fruit of our United Branch.

There are others also who have dedicated their lives to service in the Master's work both at home and abroad who have been influenced by missionary education radiating from W. H. and F. M. S. work in this Branch.

"Through Christ who strengtheneth us," we confidently



REV. E. WILLIAMSON



MRS. E. WILLIAMSON



MRS. IVA GUILLEY DUNLAP



MISS MARIE HASENPFLUG

Missionaries in Service under the General
Board

believe the influence of this merged Branch will continue to grow till the coming of our Lord. "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

MRS. IRVING DUNLAP

Mrs. Irving R. Dunlap nee Iva Guiley was born in Summit County, Ohio. When the family moved to Akron, she held a good business position and helped support her widowed mother. She was an active, consecrated worker in Akron First Church when she answered the call to Christian service and went to Chicago, where she graduated from Moody Bible Institute. After ward she became superintendent of the Illinois Training School for Christian Workers. While in this position, she was appointed by the Board to go to China. She was united in marriage to Rev. Irving R. Dunlap on July 21st, 1909, and sailed with her husband for China on the last day of August of the same year. While stationed at Liling, Mrs. Dunlap had charge of the Girl's Day School. In order that she might be enabled to reach the women more effectively, she started a day school for women which proved very successful and this method of work has since been adopted by other missionaries. In Changsha she has also been active in work for women. There are five children in the Dunlap family, two daughters and three sons.

MISS MARIE HASENPFLUG

Miss Marie Hasenpflug was born at Brownhelm, Ohio, the daughter of an itinerant preacher of the Ohio Conference. When the family moved to Cleveland, Miss Hasenpflug was a teacher in the public schools there. While on a tour around the world in 1904, she stopped for a years' visit in China with her sister, Mrs. Dubs, and to teach Homer, then in the grammar grades. When the year was up, she felt the call of mission work so much that she stayed, and on May 31, 1904, she and Mrs. Dubs opened a girls' day school. She is now in charge of the Union Girls' High School at Changsha, in which our mission is affiliated with the Presbyterian Mission. This institution has an enrollment of about 150 girls at this writing. She was appointed as a missionary on October 16, 1903. The decision of Miss Hasenpflug to give herself to the education of the girls in Changsha, opened up the way for the furtherance of this branch of work.

PART IV.

TOGETHER

Music—"Onward Christian Soldiers."

BY MRS. H. BENNETT.

"While they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them." Luke 24: 15.

*Draw still closer, Jesus,
This we humbly ask,
Let Thy glorious presence
Brighten every task.
Planning for Thy kingdom,
Waiting for Thy light,
Let us see Thy glory
Through the darkest night.*

Chorus:

*Draw still closer, Jesus,
This we humbly ask,
Let Thy glorious presence,
Brighten every task.*

*Give the great infilling,
Of Thy Spirit's power,
Cleanse and make us holy
In this solemn hour.
Lead us forth to rescue,
In those olden lands,
Souls who need the pressure
Of Thy holy hands.*

*From the heights of glory
Let us hear Thy voice,
Guiding every action,
Blessing every choice.
Knowing Thou wilt lead us
All the sunlit way,
We with blended voices
Praise Thy name today.*

"In unity there is strength."

CHAPTER I.

1922-1927.

The Period of the Merger.

THE year 1922 is one that will long be remembered in the Evangelical Church as the year of the eventful General Conference in Detroit, Michigan, in October, when those who had been long separated in the work of building up Christ's Kingdom, once more were united, and our Church, as now constituted, was born. At this time, the Board of Missions asked the General Officers of the two Woman's Missionary Societies to call a General Convention to bring together these two bodies for united assault upon the world of darkness. The call went forth, and on December 8th to 12th, in Cleveland, Ohio, they assembled—all Evangelical women on business for the King. It was a big task to harmonize the Constitutions, the different funds, the departments, manuals, publications, special days, mottoes, colors, etc., but they did it, not in their own strength, but, by looking to Him, who had called them into His service. The Ohio Branch was officially represented at this notable gathering by its Treasurer, Miss Estella Schultz. It was a wonderful experience. As Miss Schultz so ably describes it in her account written for the *Agitator* in March, 1923: "The two societies were so beautifully blended together by the Great Master Artist, whose presence was with us throughout the entire meeting, a mountain-top experience—and we almost longed, like did one of old, that we might remain where the atmosphere was so pleasant."

At this time, our old friend, the *Missionary Messenger*, changed its dress and its name, and came to us as "*The Missionary World*." The "*Missionary Gem*" for the children also came as a result of the merger, having been published by the former United Evangelical Woman's Board. New missions were added to our interests, and new ways of doing things. The Young People's Missionary Society of the former United Evangelical Society, and the Young Women's Missionary Circle of the former Evangelical Association, became the Young People's Missionary Circle. In Ohio, the Branches still held their indi-

viduality until such time as the Ohio Conferences should merge, the women, as always, awaiting the consent of the brethren. By the action of the General Conference, some of the boundaries of the Conferences were changed, and in this shifting of lines, the former Erie Branch of the Evangelical Association was divided between the Ohio Branch, the Pittsburgh Branch, and the New York Branch, twenty-one of their societies coming to the Ohio Branch. One of Ohio Branch's banner societies, that of Warren, Pennsylvania, was added to the Pittsburgh Branch. All of these things had to be considered at the Marion Convention of the Ohio Branch, in 1923, held in the capacious Calvary Church, of which Rev. S. L. Allen was pastor.

Miss Georgia Wiest, our own Ohio Branch girl, preparing to leave for China in September, told of her call to service as a missionary. Rev. Guinter's addresses on the work of our church in Nukan, Africa, where he works under the Sudan Mission, were enlightening. Rev. Guinter was first sent out by a group of women in the East Pennsylvania Conference of the United W. M. S.; Rev. Ira McBride and his wife were under appointment at this time to return with Rev. Guinter in the fall. Our president's message delineated the drawing power of the Christ. "If magnetized by the Spirit of God, what a wonderful drawing power the church might be." Miss Nellie Frank Smith wonderfully led in studies from the gospels. Miss Velma Schneller's inspiring songs, Mrs. H. Bennett's paper on "The Book of Books," the solo "When Mother Prayed," by Mrs. Snyder, eighty years of age, and the singing of Mrs. A. L. Wood, using the hymn written by Mrs. Sarah Ernest Snyder on the occasion of the Merger, "Together With Jesus," were unusual in emotional fervor. Below is Mrs. Snyder's beautiful hymn:

TOGETHER, FOR JESUS

(Music—"If Jesus Goes with Me.")

*O Jesus! We have promised
Thy leadings to obey,
And now Thy voice is calling,
And saying, "Go today
United in your plans,*

*Your efforts and your prayer,
And carry the Gospel,
For me, everywhere."*

Chorus:

*Together, for Jesus, we'll go
Everywhere!
To lands where His word
Has never been heard
Its joy we'll bear;
The sacrifice, danger and toil
We'll gladly share;
Together, for Jesus, we'll go
Everywhere!*

*We'll go, for Him, to Europe,
And far away Hunan
Across the mighty desert
To Africa's Sudan;
From flower-strewn Japan
To far Canadian snow,
Because we love Jesus,
Together we'll go.*

*We meet with sin and sorrow
On every side, at home,
And know our Lord is calling
The weary ones to come;
But He must speak through us
That souls His peace may know,
So here in our Home-land
For Jesus, we'll go!*

*His will, not ours, we whisper,
We know His way is best,
We want to show His likeness
Through every crucial test;
So, since He says "Unite
That more my love, may know,"
We answer, "United, For Jesus, we'll go."*

Rev. A. E. Hangen, of the former United Evangelical Church, brought the message Sunday morning, on the subject, "The World Field and the Home Base." Through him, we learned of the mission at Red Bird, Kentucky, in which we now have an interest, a mission which Rev. A. E. Hangen and Rev. Dr. B. H. Niebel located two years previous to this time.

Resolutions of sympathy to the bereaved ones, in the loss of our dear sisters, Mrs. H. E. Williamson and Miss Clara Klinefelter, were adopted.

Among the interesting items in the report of the Corresponding Secretary this year, we notice that Cleveland, Calvary, has the largest membership, 168, and seven Auxiliaries reached the Standard of Excellence, receiving therefor the Tokyo Bible School Bulletin, as a reward. One of the activities of the Woman's Missionary Society this year was the sale of doors, windows, brick and tile for the new Bible School in Japan. In this work the children, the young people, as well as the women, joined hands, and secured the sum of \$2528.87 for this purpose in Ohio.

Among the new features included in the work of the Woman's Missionary Society, coming from the former United Evangelical Society, were the following:

Memorial Roll—By paying \$10.00 the name of some loved one may be placed upon this roll.

Faith Fund—This is a fund for the special offerings, Day of Prayer collections, etc.

The Home Department—This is for the benefit of those who cannot attend the meetings of the W. M. S., and is in charge of the Secretary of Little Heralds.

Quarterly Leaflet Envelope—A selection of leaflets to harmonize with the study book, furnished quarterly on yearly subscriptions.

Oratorical Contests—These were one of the points required of all Auxiliaries, and also encouraged in the Young Peoples' Missionary Circles and Mission Bands.

Standard of Efficiency—This was adopted to take the place of the former Standard of Excellence, and included several requirements not formerly a part of the work of our Society.

Through the group rallies and correspondence, this new Standard was explained and its attainment and record was in charge of the Corresponding Secretary in 1923-1924. Mrs. Mathias, the president of the Ohio Branch of the United Evangelical Missionary Society was present with the Ohio Branch at Marion, and explained many of these somewhat puzzling questions.

Relative to the probable merging of the W. M. S. of Ohio Branch, the United Ohio Branch, and certain fields of the Erie Conference into the new Ohio Conference Branch, the following resolution was adopted, presented by the Ways and Means Committee, consisting of Mrs. Annette McCauley, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Mrs. H. M. Coyle and Miss Ella Merrick:

"1. That each Branch elect officers at June Convention of 1923 who shall function for another year separately or until such time as may be agreed upon by the Committee hereafter provided for;

2. That each Branch, the United Ohio, The Ohio and the Erie at this 1923 Convention appoint a committee of three who shall act conjointly to arrange for a time, place and program of the convention of 1924, to be operative in the event of the merging of these Conferences, the general president to be the convener of the committee of nine, three from each Branch as provided for in the foregoing.

3. In the event of the merging of the Conferences this joint committee to also be empowered to make such other arrangements as may be necessary to take care of the work and harmonize the efforts of the Woman's Missionary Society."

Mrs. John Hobson, Mrs. A. D. Wiest and Miss Estella Schultz were appointed to act as such a committee.

In 1924, in accordance with the resolution given above, the Ohio Branch officers continued to function, until the convention at Fremont, when our Erie sisters joined hands with us, in a most impressive service conducted by the Presiding Elder of the Cleveland District, Rev. W. H. Schuster. The president's address on "Growth and Service" was most timely, pleading for leaders and stressing the prayer life, in harmony with the thought of the Convention Motto, "Pray Without Ceasing."

Rev. and Mrs. Howard Porterfield, under appointment to the Red Bird, Kentucky, Mission, were present, and Rev.

Busacca, who told of his work among the Italians. He said, "The big word in the W. M. S. organization is 'Evangelization.' We may not be able to go to Africa or Kentucky, but we have the command to go to our neighbors."

Dr. H. F. Schlegel was the Convention speaker on Sunday morning, using the text, Matt. 28: 18; at the consecration service conducted by him, five presented themselves for special service.

Our beloved General President, Mrs. E. M. Spreng, having been taken from us by death, left to the Ohio Branch her missionary library, to be used as a circulating library. This precious gift was accepted at the Fremont Convention, and became known as the "Spreng Memorial Library." Mrs. Emma Berger, Mrs. Spreng's sister, became the first librarian, the books to be loaned to auxiliaries for a stated time, and then returned, to be re-loaned to others. These 140 books are still going forth on their mission of usefulness, other new books being added from time to time. A memorial was held in honor of Mrs. E. M. Spreng, consisting of a short program, in which Rev. E. Wengerd read the Scripture—Eccl. 11: 6, Mark 14: 1-9, John 14: 1-14 and offered prayer; Mrs. W. H. Hammer spoke "In memory of long association;" Mrs. H. Bennett read a poem, "At Home;" Miss Estella R. Schultz, "Representing the Ohio Branch," and Mrs. W. L. Naumann, "In Memory of Recent Associations." The Branch adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas our Heavenly Father in His infinite love, wisdom and understanding, and who doeth all things well, has seen fit to call from our ranks our beloved General President, Mrs. Minerva Spreng, who was in a special way endeared to us, being a member of our own Ohio Branch,

Be it Resolved, That while we keenly feel our loss, we know that our loss is her gain, and that we go forward to carry out her last great message to us, so beautifully expressed in these words, "Tell them not to be afraid to undertake big things."

Miss Kathryn Schirmer, on furlough from Japan delivered twenty four messages in Ohio during the year. Thirteen group rallies were held. Each society was asked to elect a secretary of Life Enlistment and Intercessory Prayer, to outline five minute programs for intercession at each monthly meeting. The W. M. S. was represented on the programs of the ministerial



MRS. JOHN HOBSON
President



MRS. W. S. MATHIAS
1st Vice President
Sec'y. of Thank Offering

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MRS. W. H. HERKNER
2nd Vice President, Sec'y. of
Life Enlistment and Inter-
cessory Prayer



MRS. ELLEN B. ACKLEY
3rd Vice President, Sec'y. of
Missionary Oratorical Contests



MRS. H. L. ZACHMAN
4th Vice President, Sec'y. of
Tithing

Branch Officers 1926--1927

conventions, and assisted in the work of the Missionary Institutes of the Ohio Conference. Fall Membership and Periodical Campaigns were stressed.

The Executive Committee was empowered by the Convention at Fremont to meet with the officers of the former Ohio United Branch to arrange for the merger. This meeting took place in the East 105th St. Church in Cleveland, in January, 1925. A spirit of sisterly love prevailed, and personal preferences were laid aside, thus enabling all necessary arrangement to be made harmoniously. Each Branch continued to work independently, completing its own reports until the close of the fiscal year. June 25-28, 1925, both Conventions were held simultaneously in the Kenmore-Boulevard Church. Mrs. John Hobson, President of the former Evangelical Association Ohio Branch, and Mrs. Hulda Mathias, President of the former United Evangelical Ohio Branch presided alternately. During the year previous, both of these leaders had been compelled to undergo serious operations, but God had enabled them to recover their health, and continue their work for Him. The motto, "For Christ's Sake and the Gospel's" given us by our missionary in China, Miss Georgia Wiest, ruled the hearts of the delegates and officers. Separate business sessions terminated the work of each Branch. Then came the crucial hour of the Convention, when the two bodies united in a common Communion Service. Rev. J. W. Heininger, General Secretary of the Forward Movement of the Evangelical Church, read the Scripture—the intercessory prayer of our Lord, recorded in John 17. Then the 168 delegates, with the visitors, officers, ministers and Circle girls present, knelt around the Lord's Table, where the Holy Spirit's presence was very manifest, and by His divine touch were welded into one organic body.

*"Heaven came down my soul to greet,
and Glory crowned the Mercy-seat."*

This service was conducted by the Presiding Elders of the Ohio Conference, assisted by other ministers present.

The officers of the Ohio Branch elected were:
President, Mrs. John Hobson,
1st Vice President, Mrs. Hulda Mathias,
2nd Vice President, Mrs. D. L. Caldwell,

3rd Vice President, Mrs. Ella Ackley,
4th Vice President, Mrs. H. L. Zachman
Recording Secretary, Miss Emma K. Thomas
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. H. B. Masters,
Treasurer, Miss Estella Schultz,
Secretary Y. P. M. C., Mrs. F. A. Firestone,
Secretary Mission Bands, Mrs. A. D. Wiest,
Secretary Little Heralds, Mrs. E. D. Paulin,
Secretary of Literature, Mrs. H. V. Summers.

The Organizers' Districts were made to conform to those of the Presiding Elders of the Conference, and Organizers were appointed as follows:

Canton District—Mrs. H. M. Coyle,
Cleveland District—Mrs. Charles Theuer,
Toledo District—Mrs. M. V. Overmeyer,
Columbus District—Mrs. P. E. Smoke.

Mrs. Hulda Mathias was appointed delegate to the Ohio Conference, and Mrs. John Hobson was elected representative to meet with the General Board. At this Convention, Mrs. H. V. Summers conducted the literature department, Mrs. Roy Deininger's presence being prevented by illness. As Mrs. Summers was elected Branch Secretary of Literature, the circulation of the Spreng Memorial Library was entrusted to her. The Reading Course prescribed was as follows:

The two regular study books,
The Missionary World,
The W. M. S. Manual,
One other Missionary book, and one leaflet each month.

Cards were printed, explaining the course, and placed in the hands of each member.

One of the new methods of publicity adopted was the preparation of a leaflet, giving special objects supported by the Woman's Board; these were circulated by the Corresponding Secretary.

The work of promoting the Standard of Efficiency, and the Oratorical Contests, was placed in the hands of the third Vice President, Mrs. Ella Ackley. The General Board was asked by the Ohio Branch to separate the credits of the Little Herald



MISS EMMA THOMAS
Recording Secretary



MRS. H. B. MASTERS
Corresponding Secretary



MISS MARGARET HUDSON
Historian



MISS ESTELLA R. SCHULTZ
Treasurer



MRS. H. V. SUMMERS
Sec'y. of Literature

Branch Officers 1926--1927



MRS. H. M. COYLE
Canton District



MRS. P. E. SMOKE
Columbus District



MISS MINNIE PFERRER
Appointed in January, 1927,
upon resignation of
Mrs. Theuer



MRS. CHAS. THEUER
Cleveland District



MRS. M. V. OVERMYER
Toledo District

Branch District Secretaries of W. M. S.

and those of the Home Department on the Standard of Efficiency.

Rev. and Mrs. I. R. Dunlap, and Miss Marie Hasenpflug, missionaries on furlough from China, and Rev. De Wall of the Kentucky Mission, presented conditions and needs of their respective fields. The Life Enlistment Department reported the appointment of Miss Vera Stull, of Marion, to the mission at Red Bird, Kentucky. The presence of Mrs. W. L. Naumann, General Corresponding Secretary, was an inspiration throughout the session, as was also that of a number of the former officers of both Branches; especially appreciated were the greetings brought by Mrs. Ella J. Yost Preyer, the first President of the General Woman's Missionary Society of our Church.

Most inspiring were the bright faces and sweet voices of nearly three hundred of our young people, as they filled to overflowing the spacious choir platform and pulpit on Saturday evening, leading the congregation in Song and Prayer. The Oratorical Contest, which followed, was a new feature to a large number of the delegates, but filled with dramatic interest. Miss Sarah Newcomer, of St. Paul's Church, Findlay, was adjudged winner of the gold medal.

The new Ohio Branch now consisted of 130 Auxiliaries, made up of 97 from the former Evangelical Association, including 21 from the former Erie Branch, and 33 from the former United Evangelical Branch.

At the close of the first year of the united work, in 1926, representatives from all over the Branch gathered in the new Oakland Church, in Marion, for the thirty-sixth Annual Convention. The days spent together were a feast of good things. Rev. A. Giuliani, of our Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Italian Mission, Miss Sarah Kramer, kindergarten missionary, and Rev. Paul Mayer, from Tokyo, Japan, gave very encouraging reports and possibilities for the future for our missions, among the Italians and in Japan. Especially impressive was Rev. Mayer's plea for prayer—not only for the missionaries, but for the newly converted Christians and the native pastors and Bible Women. The members of the Convention also had the pleasure of greeting Rev. and Mrs. D. F. Brose, members of the Ohio Conference, under appointment to China.

The equalization plan, of the former Erie Branch, pre-

sented by Mrs. Charles Theuer, for defraying the expenses of delegates to the annual conventions, was adopted, each Auxiliary being asked to pay 35 cents per member into the Branch Treasury, which is also to pay the expenses of the Branch. Only two changes were made in the official family: Mrs. William Herkner, of Lorain was chosen to take the place of Mrs. D. L. Caldwell, as Life Enlistment Secretary, and Miss Lydia Balli, of Cleveland, (now Mrs. W. L. Seith) that of Mrs. A. D. Wiest, to have charge of the Mission Bands.

Mrs. John Hobson, Mrs. Hulda Mathias and Miss Estella Schultz, were elected delegates to the Quadrennial, to be held at York, Pa., in September, 1926. Mrs. H. V. Summers was appointed to represent Ohio Branch at the session of the Ohio Conference. Miss Leatherman, of Perrysburg, was awarded the gold medal in the Oratorical Contest.

The reports showed splendid results. Nineteen group rallies were held. Twenty-six Circles reached the Standard of Excellence. But, best of all, was the amount brought into the treasury. Miss Estella Schultz, the capable and genial Treasurer, had prescribed a most effective method of securing funds for the Lord's work; it is, "Ask God, tell the people." So the women of the Ohio Branch have *asked God* to give them means for his cause, and have *told the people* in every way they could of the needs of the mission fields. And how it does work! \$34,614.53 laid on the altar for God—the "extra" gift, in 1926.

In closing this account of the work of the Ohio Branch thus far, a few summaries of the work done and gains made may be interesting:

In 1924, before merging with the former Erie Branch, Ohio Branch had 76 Auxiliaries, 2900 members, of whom 1100 were tithers, and raised during that year \$18,326.34 for all purposes.

The amount of the first Thank Offering was \$21.80.

The amount of the Thank Offering in 1924—\$2475.00.

The offering on the first Day of Prayer was \$58.00.

The offering on the Day of Prayer in 1924—\$1244.00.

Total given by Ohio Branch to Ohio Conference Missionary Society—\$13,560.75.

Total given by Ohio Branch to General Fund—\$24,387.

Total given by Ohio Branch for all purposes—
\$169,998.08.

In June 1926, Ohio Branch had a membership of 4293, 1456 of whom are tithers, 1693 Circle members, and 1761 children in the Mission Bands. She has been permitted, through the mercy of God, to contribute \$231,180. to the cause of missions at home and abroad.

An occasion of unusual interest in the summer of 1926, was the special service held in the church at Lindsey, Ohio, in honor of the memory of Mrs. E. M. Spreng, on Sunday, July 18. This was sponsored by the local W. M. S., loyally assisted by the members of the congregation. Three services were held during the day. Many noted persons in the annals of the W. M. S. were present. Mrs. C. R. Beerbower, a former president of the Ohio Branch, gave her tribute of love. The message of Mrs. W. L. Naumann, who was unable to be present on account of illness, was brought by Rev. W. L. Naumann, a former member of the Lindsey church, and a son of Mrs. L. Naumann, the first president of its Woman's Missionary Society. Most of the surviving members of that historic organization, including Mrs. L. Naumann, were present. Bishop S. P. Spreng, in his splendid way, dealt with the life of Mrs. E. M. Spreng in its varied activities, and also paid tribute to the wise counsel and sacrifices of her husband, Rev. E. M. Spreng, which made it possible for her to better fill her place as leader in the missionary work of the women of her Church. Most impressive were the moments when Mrs. John Hobson, President of the Ohio Branch, after a brief message, drew aside the veil of purple and gold, the W. M. S. colors, bringing to view the beautiful bronze tablet, placed at the side of the pulpit, bearing this inscription:

IN MEMORY OF

MINERVA STRAWMAN SPRENG

1862 LINDSEY, OHIO 1924

FOUNDER OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

HER MESSAGE:

TELL THEM NOT TO BE AFRAID TO ATTEMPT
BIG THINGS FOR GOD.

The secret of Mrs. Spreng's untiring devotion to the cause of missions was revealed as related by Mrs. Hobson, in these words uttered by Mrs. Spreng in an outburst of emotion at a Convention at Youngstown a few years ago—"Oh, how I love the W. M. S.; it is my bread and meat; it is my very life."

At the Quadrennial Convention, at York, Pa., September 2-8, 1926, the president of the Ohio Branch, Mrs. John Hobson, was elected General Corresponding Secretary, a task laid down by Mrs. W. L. Naumann on account of failing health. The Standard of Efficiency was revised, making it more attainable; the Home Department was dropped. At the request of the General Conference, the fiscal year of the Woman's Missionary Society was changed to correspond with the calendar year, thus causing the records of our Branch to close with December, 1926. Our auxiliaries were asked to conform with this new arrangement, and filled the heart of the Branch Treasurer to overflowing, when the aggregate amount of the funds sent in to her for the six months' period was found to be over \$17,000.00.*

Troublous times have come in China, causing an almost discontinuance of our missionary work there for the present. Most of the missionaries have returned to America; among them is Miss Marie Hasenpflug, one of our Circle missionaries, and in an itinerary, arranged for Miss Hasenpflug throughout Ohio, in April and May 1927, by the Circle leaders, she has helped the church at home to see that, although the work there is at a standstill at present, yet it has not been in vain; in God's own time, He will yet save China.

*"It's coming, it's coming,
The time for which we pray;
We'll take the world for Jesus,
Some glad day."*

*For revised Constitution and Efficiency Standard, see Appendix.

TO THE MANY DEAR SISTERS
FROM ALL OF OUR AUXILIARIES'
WHO HAVE GONE ON BEFORE,
THIS PAGE
IS LOVINGLY DEDICATED.



Regretting that the record of our deceased ones is incomplete, so that it is impossible to here record their names, we nevertheless, express our grateful recognition of their faithful service and untiring devotion to the cause of world-wide evangel, to which we hereby pledge our renewed allegiance.

*“O God, to us may grace be given,
To follow in their train.”*

CHAPTER II.

Our Auxiliaries.

1880-1927.

NO GENERAL ever won a battle, nor can the Branch Officers wage a campaign for King Immanuel alone. It is to the rank and file, the faithful ones in the more humble places, those whose names are seldom, or never, mentioned in the Convention reports, that the victory really belongs. As long as the local Auxiliaries persevere, the Woman's Missionary Society will live. As they work, study and pray, our beloved Society will go on from triumph to triumph.

In this chronicle it is impossible to relate the deeds of heroism and sacrifice performed by even a few of the dear sisters in the Auxiliaries now composing the Ohio Branch, many of whom have gone on to glory. Some organizations, through removal of members, or change of boundaries, have been compelled to discontinue their existence, but their influence shall never die. Their workers, scattered though they may be, are bearing fruit in other fields of the seed sown back in the old home church. By far the greater number, however, of the organizations formed throughout the years, are continuing their labors, growing numerically and spiritually, becoming more useful each year.

We have sought to glean some facts concerning the beginning of each society for this record, together with its progress; if any should be omitted, it is because no response came to the request. The information in this chapter is given as it came to us, of all present and many other auxiliaries, which, coming direct from the pastors or presidents, should be authentic.

Akron—Calvary	1890	Mrs. E. M. Spreng
Miss Amanda Rickert, elected Recording Secretary of General W. M. S. in 1891 was a worker in this society. The General records show an organization in Akron as early as 1884.		
Akron—First	Nov. 1904	Mrs. Etta J. Sherrick
Akron—Grace	1915	Rev. G. A. Smith
Akron—Madison Ave.	Jan. 1, 1921	Rev. R. Doescher, Pastor and Mrs. H. M. Coyle

Akron—North Hill 1917 Rev. G. H. Ackley
 Amherst 1896 Rev. and Mrs. G. Gaehr
 Ashland May, 1900 Rev. J. A. Hensel, Pastor

Mrs. Ezra Spring, organizer and first president, Mrs. G. M. Morr, charter member is still corresponding secretary and treasurer.

Baltimore—Baltimore 1901 Rev. DeVaux
 Mrs. J. R. Johnson, First President, Mrs. Adah Gierhart, Secretary. Disbanded in 1906. Reorganized in 1923 by Rev. and Mrs. W. S. Harpster.

Baltimore—Millersport Mar. 15, 1925 Mrs. H. E. Williamson
 Arthur Novene Christopher, a native of Calcutta, India, in an address, told of being in this country two years, before anyone spoke to him about Jesus. This gave them them the vision to organize.

Belmore 1910 Mrs. J. M. Prickett
 Mrs. Prickett was also first president.

Bellevue 1888 Rev. F. G. Stauffer

Benton Ridge—Calvary 1882 Mrs. J. H. Burkett
 Mrs. Olive Powell-Walter, first president.

Benton Ridge—Salem 1918 Rev. C. W. Ruhlman
 Disbanded 1926.

Benton Ridge—Mt. Hermon 1914

Bethel—Fairview 1921 Rev. and Mrs. W. D. Huddle

Disbanded in 1924.

Bettsville—Burgoon 1923 Rev. O. J. Harvli

Bettsville—St. John 1919 Rev. Harry Kuntz

Bettsville—Trinity 1909 Rev. C. W. Weltmer

Blissfield 1909 Rev. Anderson

Blissfield—Pleasant Hill 1925 Rev. R. E. Hearn

Blissfield—Sheplar 1913 Rev. C. Kern

Brokensword—Emanuel May 6, 1920 Mrs. H. U. McCarty

Brokensword—Lykens June 5, 1920 Mrs. H. U. McCarty

Brownhelm (Ev. Assn.) About 1887 Thought to be Mrs. E. M. Spreng

Mrs. Peter Fiebach was first president and held this office for 25 years. Though a hard working woman at home, she was

willing to deny herself for the sake of Christ. Her Master called her home some years go.

Brownhelm (Former United)

Jan. 1, 1902

Rev. L. R. Herbst

This was inspired by a talk given by Mrs. Kreeker. Mrs. Philip Zilch was first president.

Brownhelm—Henrietta About 1918

Mrs. DeVeaux

Brownhelm—So. Ridge Apr. 18, 1918

Mrs. Handke

Bucyrus 1908

Mrs. J. M. Prickett

Mrs. Prickett was also first president, and the society had 23 charter members.

Bucyrus—Salem 1920

Rev. J. F. Atkinson

Bucyrus—Zion 1916

Rev. C. H. Kern

This society had the distinction of being the only 100% auxiliary in membership in Ohio Branch for several years.

Butler—Mt. Sinai 1906

Mrs. H. C. Berger

Rev. Leedy has record of early society, organized January 7, 1883, Rev. S. E. Rife, pastor, with 26 charter members.

Butler—Ebenezer 1916

Rev. H. E. Williamson

Disbanded in 1919.

Butler—Mt. Carmel 1916

Rev. H. E. Williamson

Disbanded in 1922.

Butler—Salem 1921

Rev. A. C. Coldiron

Calla—Austintown Jan. 8, 1921

Rev. Rager

Canton—Bethany 1917

Rev. R. J. Kiefer

Canton—First 1890

Mrs. G. Berstecher

This was a German society, and merged with the other in May, 1926.

Lydia 1916

Mrs. Lydia Fassinger

Canton—Grace 1889

Rev. (afterward Bishop)

W. M. Stanford

Canton—Trinity Sept. 7, 1905

Daniel Poling

Carey—St. Johns 1917

(Congregation disbanded.)

Carey—Memorial 1901

Mrs. Claude Johnson

Cedar Hill—Bloom Chapel

Nov. 24, 1894

Rev. E. D. Paulin

This organization disbanded in June, 1897. On November 20, 1912, under C. W. Ruhlman, a joint society was formed in-

cluding Cedar Hill and Bloom Chapel. In 1915 each formed its own society. The early society required all adults to pay \$1.00 a year, or 25 cents a quarter, and children under 10 years of age to give an optional amount. At the second meeting they decided to lift a free will offering at each session, also that each member give a hen or the value thereof as a Christmas gift. On November 25, a Thanksgiving service was given, with a missionary sermon, and a good offering. This society has always continued the custom of a missionary program on Thanksgiving evening, when the Thank-offering is received.

Cedar Hill Nov. 20, 1912 Rev. Ruhlman
Organized with Bloom Chapel. On April 3, 1915, it was formed into a separate organization, under Rev. E. A. Tovey, with 14 members.

Cedar Hill—(Former United)
Mar. 27, 1917 Rev. I. H. Amore
Organized with 16 members.

These two societies merged into the present society in the fall of 1925, under Rev. Mullet.

Circleville 1883 Rev. S. P. Spreng
(now Bishop)

This society was organized following a great revival; Mrs. S. P. Spreng was first president. She was also the delegate to the first General Convention, which met at Cleveland. Mrs. Emanuel Rife was the first secretary, Miss Augusta Bolenbaugh, a charter member, is still living in Circleville and a member of the W. M. S.

Cleveland—Calvary Feb. 9, 1881 Ella Yost-Preyer
Raised \$102.15 the first year of organization.

Cleveland—East Boulevard
Mar. 16, 1899 Mrs. Agnes Hickman
(Formerly known as "Woodland Ave.")

Cleveland—E. 75 St. 1884 Rev. Bornheimer
Mrs. C. A. Thomas was president of this society until her death in 1906. Until 1900 it was a combined Ladies Aid and W. M. S., when Elise Ttjen, Secretary, persuaded them to organize separately.

- Cleveland—E. 105 St. 1903 Mrs. Schuster
 Cleveland—W. 14 St. 1893 Mary B. Gehlke
 Emanuel W. M. S. (German).
 Cleveland—W. 14 St. Feb. 1925 Mrs. Lillian Bade
 Mary B. Gehlke W. M. S.
 Cleveland W. 41 St. (Tabor) 1894 W. L. Seith
 Cleveland W. 65 St. July 10, 1913
 A Woman's organization contributed to the work of W.
 M. S. as early as November 14, 1908.
 Cleveland Heights May 1922 Rev. W. L. Seith, Pastor
 Cleveland—Madison Ave.
 As early as 1894 a W. M. S. here. Mrs. J. S. Ewald Supt.
 of Mission Bands. Mrs. S. P. Spreng and Ethel, members.
 Merged with Oakdale (Calvary) in 1901.
- Columbus—Como Ave. 1919 Rev. and Mrs. Harpster
 Three have gone to Korea from this society, under Presby-
 terian Board.
- Columbus—East Eighth Ave. Rev. and Mrs. W. E.
 Oct. 16 1904 Bailey
- Columbus—Emanuel About 1892
 Merged with Ohio Avenue in 1918, when church was dis-
 banded.
- Columbus—Miller Ave. 1905 Rev. Summers
 Columbus—Ohio Ave. Nov. 12, 1925 Rev. W. S. Gamertsfelder
 assisted by Mrs. Wise, Mrs. Hedges and Miss Clara Man-
 gold.
- Columbus—St. Paul's 1910 Mrs. W. S. Harpster
 (Disbanded 1922.)
- Columbus—Weber Road 1919 Mrs. W. S. Harpster
 (Disbanded.)
- Elliston April 1920 Rev. and Mrs. Yeacker
 13 Charter members.
- Erie, Pa. 1908 Theoph. Gaeher.
 The call of Miss Cora Haller, of Erie, now Mrs. J. Gaeher,
 as a missionary to Japan, was epoch making for the Erie
 W. M. S. Previously we had contributed to the cause, but
 in 1909 became a fully organized society of the Erie Branch.
 The Chapel in Mukojima, Japan, is to the credit of this
 Auxiliary.

Fairhope June 15, 1915 Mrs. Perry Smoke
Findlay—Grace 1898

Later discontinued, reorganized in 1904. In 1926, congregation merged with West Park, and the members of the W. M. S. have united with the society of that congregation, or that of St. Paul's.

Findlay—St. Paul's 1893 Mrs. A. N. McCauley
Has grown from six to over 100 members. Miss Georgia Wiest, missionary in China, a member of this society.

Findlay—W. Park (Bethel) 1892
The present society was organized in 1917.

Flat Rock Feb. 23, 1883 Rev. Felger
Ladies met at the home of Mrs. James Feese to organize. Started with eight Charter members. In June of that year, they sent Mrs. I. Feese and Mrs. S. Wyant to the first W. M. S. Convention in Cleveland. Entertained the Branch Convention in June, 1893. From their number, has gone one missionary to Japan, one to China, and one to Canada, as a minister's wife. Mrs. Lewis Harpster was the first president.

Fremont 1897 Rev. L. B. Myers
Mrs. Ida Hague, first president, Clara Hefflinger, secretary, Mrs. Schultz, Ida and Stella Schultz, and Mrs. Zolle are among charter members.

Fostoria May 25, 1911 Rev. and Mrs. H. W. Lenk
Eight Charter members.

Gibsonburg About 1896 Rev. Schmucker
Mrs. Yeasting, first president. Revived during pastorate of Rev. L. C. Hoover, 1914.

Greensburg March 1917 Mrs. Z. Miesse Dunlap
There was a society here in the early days but no records remain concerning it. In 1916, Mrs. Dallas organized a W. M. S. in the Association at Greensburg, which continued until 1921.

Greenspring 1897 Mrs. Sam Conklin
Has entertained the Branch W. M. S. Convention twice. Have had 28 Life Members, seven of whom have passed away,

and one Honorary Member. Two members, Mrs. George Baker and Mrs. Elmer Parker have been mothers of sons who have entered the foreign mission field.

Greenspring—Old Fort Jan. 10, 1903 Rev. L. L. Orth
Mrs. Orth was first president.

Homeworth—Freeburg	1918	Rev. Z. Miesse Dunlap
Homeworth—Salem	1911	Mrs. E. E. Hunt
Huron—St. John's	1920	Mrs. Holliger
Independence		Rev. E. Radebaugh

Reorganized on May 2, 1906, by Mrs. E. M. Spreng.

Johnsville, Grace	Feb. 1916	Mrs. S. T. Brandeberry
Johnsville—Pleasant Grove	1915	Mrs. E. E. Hunt (now deceased)

Johnsville—Trinity (Bellville)
1921

Johnsville—St. Paul's 1917
(Disbanded.)

Kelley's Island	1901	Rev. Goetz, assisted by Mrs. Gehlke
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Mrs. Jordan was first president. Miss Ida Michaelis a missionary at Red Bird, Ky.

Kenmore—Boulevard	Mar. 1908	Mrs. J. Wengerd
Kenmore—Hope	Feb. 10, 1918	Rev. Koepp
Lancaster—Maple Street	1892	Rev. W. S. Harpster
Lancaster—Mt. Tabor	1901	Mrs. Krecker
Lancaster—Trinity	1899	

An organization was formed here in the 80's, thought to have been under the pastorate of Rev. Eckerman. This discontinued for a few years, reorganized in 1899; has been continuous since that date.

Lindsey	Oct. 27, 1880	Miss Minerva Strawman (Mrs. E. M. Spreng.)
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Disbanded several years, reorganized 1899, under Rev. McCauley.

Lorain	1902	Mrs. Chas. Gehlke, Rev. R. Fassinger, Pastor
Luckey	1921	Mrs. O. D. Swank
Mansfield	Dec. 1905	Mrs. W. S. Mills

Marion—Calvary June 1893 Rev. and Mrs. J. B.
Kanaga

Mrs. Kanaga was first president. Have had many very faithful members; one especially, Miss Clara Klinefelter, spent herself in the work. Entertained the Quadrennial, also the Branch Convention twice. All the first officers still living.

Marion—Greenwood Jan. 29, 1925 Rev. C. A. Lang
Mrs. B. D. Lee, first president.

Marion—Oakland, 1919 Mrs. W. L. Martin, or-
ganizer, Rev. C. W.
Ruhlman, Pastor
(Formerly known as Bellefontaine Ave.)

Marion—Salem Jan. 19, 1911 Rev. and Mrs. John
Hobson

Marshallville Mar. 30, 1882 Rev. G. W. Miesse

McZena—Fairview Apr. 22, 1923 Rev. A. Clymer

McZena—Hope Mar. 1917 Rev. J. F. Atkinson

Moline 1901 Mrs. E. M. Spreng

Mrs. B. Crandall, first president. Reorganized in 1919 by
Mrs. W. H. Munk, Rev. Gettman, Pastor.

Mt. Cory—Bethesda May 3, 1916 Rev. C. W. Ruhlman

Mt. Cory—Liberty Chapel 1916 Rev. C. W. Ruhlman

Mt. Cory—Salem 1919
(Disbanded.)

Mt. Cory—Zion 1884

Napoleon—First organized 1885 Mrs. E. M. Spreng
Napoleon First organized 1885

Rev. Houser, Pastor. Mrs. Houser, first president, Mrs. O.
E. Hudson. Treasurer, Mrs. G. F. Curdes. Miss Cora
Huddle, charter members. Disbanded about 1888; Reorgan-
ized in 1912, by Rev. C. E. Lamale, Pastor.

Nellie July 31, 1904 Rev. H. C. Baker

Niles 1923 Mrs. DeVeaux-Clark

New Zion (Wagram) Mar. 25, 1927 Mrs. Smoke and Sarah
Ernest Snyder

At 10th Anniversary Celebration showed distinct gains each
year, both in numbers and gifts. In first ten years raised
\$2650. Fairview organized in 1916, disbanded.

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|--|---------------|--|
| North East, Pa. | June 1919 | Charles Holzwarth |
| North Lima | 1901 | Mrs. H. O. Henderson,
Organizer |
| North Lima—New Springfield | | |
| | 1919 | Rev. L. E. Hill, Pastor |
| Perrysburg—Grace | 1918 | Rev. Charles Vandersall |
| Perrysburg—Hobart | 1920 | Rev. O. D. Swank |
| (These two societies are now merged.) | | |
| Red Haw | May, 1900 | Rev. E. Wengerd |
| Celebrated 25th Anniversary, having Rev. Wengerd present;
still have half a dozen of the charter members; the treasurer,
Mrs. John Shott, served 24 years. | | |
| Red Haw—Mt. Pleasant | Jan. 3, 1926 | Rev. and Mrs. O. R. Reiff |
| Republic—Trinity | Mar. 20, 1917 | Rev. H. V. Summers and
Mrs. P. E. Smoke |
| Republic—Bloomville | 1922 | Mrs. Barrick |
| (Disbanded, March, 1927.) | | |
| Rocky Ridge | Mar. 8, 1921 | Rev. S. Goetz, also Mrs.
G. Knippel and Rev.
Knippel |
| Sandusky | | |
| Sawyerwood—East Liberty | Oct. 1919 | Mrs. Hulda Mathias |
| Stoutsville—Pleasant View | June 1920 | Mrs. Jos. Seesholtz, Rev.
C. H. Kern, Pastor |
| Stoutsville—St. John's | 1909 | Mrs. E. M. Spreng |
| Mrs. May Huddle, first president, Rev. Miesse, Pastor. | | |
| Stoutsville—St. Pauls' | June, 1922 | Rev. C. H. Kern |
| Mrs. S. L. Warner, President. | | |
| Trinity—Trinity | Oct. 1883 | Rev. Felger, Pastor |
| Mrs. Rittenhouse, first president, Mrs. Sevilla Spreng, first
secretary, (then Sevilla Myers) Mrs. J. S. Felger, Vice-
President. Other charter members, Mrs. George Myers,
Miss Miranda Myers, Mrs. Henry Shisler, Mrs. Emanuel
Morr, Mrs. Jacob Morr, Mrs. Mathias Rickel. This society
has been continuous since its beginning, and has sent many
workers forth into God's great harvest field. | | |
| Tiffin | 1883 | Rev. A. Vandersall |
| Mrs. Gideon Martin was first president. Quadrennial was
once held here. | | |

Toledo—Calvary Apr. 27, 1902 Rev. and Mrs. C. H.
Hensel

(Formerly known as City Park Ave.)

Toledo—Collingwood 1897 Rev. H. Fuessner
(Formerly known as Division Street Church.)

Toledo—Detroit Ave. 1912 Rev. C. Wohlgenuth

Upper Sandusky 1907 Rev. John Hobson

Upper Sandusky Ct. Bell Vernon Rev. and Mrs. O. D.
1916 Wonder

(Disbanded in 1923.)

Upper Sandusky Ct. Salem 1907 Rev. John Hobson

Warren, Pa. Mar. 8, 1883 Mrs. Geo. Folkman

(This Auxiliary is now a member of the Pittsburgh Conference Branch.)

Mrs. T. S. Messner, First President; Mrs. Margaret Trushel, Vice-President; Mrs. George Folkman, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. A. Ruhlman, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Henry Knopf, Treasurer, celebrated their 40th anniversary in 1923. Supported native preachers in Japan for many years. Mrs. George Folkman still active in the work among the mothers and children.

Warren, Ohio 1916 Mrs. DeVeaux

Emma DeVeaux, W. M. S.

Weiss Library, Fairview, Pa.

Salem W. M. S. Dec. 29, 1909 Rev. Peter

Wellsville June 10, 1906 Rev. A. Vandersall

Disbanded in 1925, but reorganized in 1926 by Rev. E. L. Zachman.

Westerville June, 1917 Rev. and Mrs. E. D.
Pagnard

West Salem

Organized in the early days by Rev. William Shisler; later reorganized by Mrs. Otto Spreng; Disbanded in 1890, reorganized in 1895 by Rev. W. P. Schott.

Youngstown 1921 Sarah Ernest Snyder and
Mrs. S. T. Brandyberry

Zanesville 1926 Our newest auxiliary

*“ ‘Such as I have I sow: it is not much,’ ”
Said one who loved the Master of the field.
Only a quiet word, a gentle touch
Upon the hidden harp strings, which may yield
No quick response; I tremble, yet I speak
For Him who knows the heart so loving yet so weak.*

*“And so the words were spoken soft and low,
Or traced with timid pen; yet oft they fell,
On soil prepared, which she would never know
Until the tender blade spring up to tell
That not in vain her labors had been spent;
Then, with new faith, more bravely on she went.”*

—Frances Ridley Havergal.

*"I watch the wheels of nature's mazy plan,
And judge the future from the past of man."*

CHAPTER III.

By Mrs. John Hobson.

A GREATER OHIO BRANCH

WE grow as we serve. That an organization may grow into a permanent, successful, powerful body, it must first of all meet human need. Love—service—brotherhood—unity—are prime essentials to its success.

Years ago a number of young college men, intensely moved by the Spirit of God, met about a haystack, and in earnest prayer, lodged the seed of modern missions. This seed has grown, lifting thousands of lives and millions of money into the service of the King of Kings. It shall continue to grow and lift and spread and propagate, until the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord.

Similarly, the seed for the Woman's Missionary Society, sown in much fear and trembling, nurtured in prayer, devotion and deep consecration, has grown beyond all expectation of those who so tremblingly but faithfully planted, and so patiently and persistently watered. Truly, God has given the increase. Gradually, step by step, the work has developed into many departments, all thoroughly organized. Each step of the way, was a launching out by faith and a stride forward.

The splendid growth of our Ohio Branch, during its thirty-six years of vigorous activity, must be attributed to the unstinted, loyal, devoted, unified, loving service of its members. Our God has been splendidly in the past, gloriously in the present, and will be alluringly, compellingly in the future. The world's greatest men and women are those who have felt the tug of the future, rather than the difficulties and discouragements of the present.

Moody said upon one occasion: "When we stop trying to enlarge our work for the Lord, we become stale and stupid, like some of the rich institutions of the Old World, which are

settling down into indolence and dying of dry rot, because they are full and have need of nothing." Hence the importance of having ever before us high ideals, standards and goals toward which to strive, for we must keep right on growing. Ever enlarging opportunities, new fields to enter, new workers to be sent forth, constantly confront us. Life, abundant life, is manifest on every hand.

Let us live up to it—read up to it—sing up to it—pray up to it—give up to it! A beautiful spirit of love and service, the power of a divinely given and a divinely accepted commission animates the womanhood of the Ohio Branch Woman's Missionary Society. A great work lies yet before us.

The greatest factor of assurance, that this work will be accomplished, is the host of babies, boys and girls, young men and young women, who through the Little Heralds, the Mission Band and the Y. P. M. C. are being trained in Kingdom Building.

When Longfellow was well along in years, his head as white as snow, but his cheeks as red as a rose, an ardent admirer asked him one day, how it was that he was able to keep so vigorous and write so beautifully. Pointing to a blossoming apple tree near by, the poet replied: "That apple tree is very old, but I never saw prettier blossoms upon it, than those which it now bears. The tree grows a little new wood every year; and I suppose it is out of that new wood that those blossoms come. Like the apple tree, I try to grow a little new wood each year." What Longfellow did, we are trying to do. We cannot stop the flight of time; we cannot head off the one event that happeneth to all; but we can keep on "growing new wood" and in that way keep on blooming and bearing fruit until the end.

Thus in the W. M. S., the army of youth, ever in missionary training, are the new wood, the blossoms, that shall carry on the work to a glorious fruition. The women of the Ohio Branch W. M. S., with hearts and hands determined to promote the glory of God, will move onward in their world mission. Above them floats the standard of the King of Kings and the Lord of Hosts, under which standard there must eventually be victory. We have not done all we want to do—we have not done all we should have done—we have not done all that we shall do, but by

the Grace of God, we have been enabled to do something. In the words of Burke at Bristol:

*Applaud us when we run; cheer us when we fall;
Console us when we recover; but above all things let us
go on.*

*Our Friend, our Brother and our Lord,
What may Thy service be?
Nor name, nor form nor ritual word,
But simply following Thee.*

*We bring no ghastly holocaust,
We pile no graven stone,
He serves Thee best who loveth most
His brothers and Thy own.*

APPENDIX

ROLL OF OFFICERS

OHIO BRANCH WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Of The

EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENTS

Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, Naperville, Ill.....	1890-1895
Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Cleveland, O.....	1895-1899
Mrs. J. H. Lamb,	1899-1903
Mrs. L. H. Seager, LeMars, Iowa.....	1903-1904
Mrs. H. C. Berger, Lindsey.....	1904-1910
Mrs. W. L. Naumann, Akron.....	1910-1912
Mrs. John Hobson, New Springfield.....	1912-1917
Mrs. C. R. Beerbower, Marion.....	1917-1922
Mrs. John Hobson, New Springfield.....	1922-1925

VICE-PRESIDENTS

(Secretaries of tithing, 1911-1924; Secretaries of thank-offering, 1924-1925.)

Mrs. A. Vandersall, Deceased	1890-1895
Mrs. E. M. Spreng, Deceased	1895-1896
Mrs. H. Bennett, Cleveland	1896-1897
Mrs. L. H. Seager, LeMars, Iowa.....	1897-1899
Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Cleveland.....	1899-1904
Mrs. J. B. Kanaga, Cleveland.....	1904-1907
Mrs. G. F. Spreng, Toledo.....	1907-1908
Mrs. E. M. Fuhrman, Ashland.....	1908-1910
Mrs. H. C. Berger, Lindsey.....	1910-1914
Mrs. C. R. Beerbower, Marion.....	1914-1917
Mrs. L. W. Naus, Upper Sandusky.....	1917-1919
Mrs. H. E. Williamson, Deceased.....	1919-1922
Mrs. S. A. Marshall, Findlay.....	1922-1924
Mrs. C. Hauser, Cleveland	1924-1925

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENTS

(Secretaries Thank-offering, 1920-1924; Secretaries Tithing, 1924-1925.)

Mrs. E. F. Stephan, Upper Sandusky.....	1920-1921
Mrs. D. L. Caldwell, Findlay.....	1921-1922
Mrs. H. L. Zachman, Canton.....	1922-1925

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENTS

(Secretaries Life Enlistment)

Mrs. M. B. McLaughlin, Fostoria.....	1920-1921
Mrs. H. L. Zachman, Canton.....	1921-1922
Mrs. D. L. Caldwell, Findlay.....	1922-1925

RECORDING SECRETARIES

Mrs. F. G. Stauffer, Chattanooga, Tenn.....	1890-1892
Mrs. S. P. Spreng, Naperville, Ill.....	1892-1895
Miss Bessie Yost (Mrs. I. J. Cox), Evanston, Ill.....	1895-1897
Mrs. Nettie Martin-Welgamood, Tiffin	1897-1901
Mrs. L. H. Seager, LeMars, Iowa.....	1901-1903
Mrs. H. J. Heimberger, Columbus.....	1903-1906
Mrs. W. L. Naumann, Akron.....	1906-1909
Mrs. E. L. Weatherwax, Chicago, Ill.....	1909-1915
Mrs. Robert L. Stearns, Cleveland.....	1915-1917
Mrs. H. M. Coyle, Canton	1917-1918
Miss Elizabeth Dryfuse (Mrs. A. Peter) Flat Rock.....	1918-1924
Miss Viola Wolf, Lindsey	1924-1925

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

Mrs. E. M. Spreng, Deceased.....	1890-1895
Mrs. J. H. Lamb	1895-1899
Mrs. L. H. Seager, LeMars, Iowa.....	1899-1901
Mrs. E. D. Paulin, Tiffin.....	1901-1906
Mrs. H. A. Kramer, Naperville.....	1906-1909
Miss Clara Klinefelter, Deceased	1909-1915
Mrs. L. W. Naus, Upper Sandusky.....	1915-1917
Miss Ruth Spreng, Rodondo Beach, California.....	1917-1920
Miss Margaret S. Hudson, Napoleon.....	1920-1925

TREASURERS

Mrs. J. A. Hensel, Los Angeles, Cal.....	1890-1895
Mrs. A. C. Stull, Deceased.....	1895-1896
Mrs. John Brightmire	1896-1897
Miss Mary Schultz (Mrs. Umsted) Fremont.....	1897-1900
Miss Martha Negele, Tiffin	1900-1905
Mrs. John Hobson, New Springfield.....	1905-1908
Mrs. R. A. Witner, Kenmore.....	1908-1910
Miss Estella Schultz, Fremont	1910-1925

SECRETARIES OF SYSTEMATIC AND PROPORTIONATE GIVING. (TITHING).

Miss Martha Negele, Tiffin	1898-1899
Mrs. A. N. McCauley, Akron.....	1899-1903
Miss Mary Sebrell, Corwallis, Ore.....	1903-1905
Mrs. A. D. Wiest, Findlay.....	1905-1907
Miss Clara Klinefelter, Deceased	1907-1910
Mrs. Clara Fought, Lindsey	1910-1911

SECRETARIES OF LITERATURE

Mrs. H. Bennett, Cleveland	1903-1910
Miss Estella Schultz, Fremont	1910-1911
Miss Clara Vandersall	1911-1912
Miss Lois Kramer, Tokyo, Japan.....	1912-1913
Miss Opal Lutz, (Mrs. Lorin Heacock) Hebron.....	1913-1914
Mrs. C. R. Beerbower, Marion.....	1914-1917
Miss Mary Sebrell, Corwallis, Ore.....	1917-1921
Mrs. John Hobson, New Springfield.....	1921-1922
Mrs. O. D. Swank, New York.....	1922-1923
Mrs. Roy Deininger, Cleveland	1923-1925

SUPERINTENDENTS OF MISSION BANDS

Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Cleveland.....	1890-1893
Mrs. E. Hoffman	1893-1895
Miss Rose George, (Mrs. A. D. Wiest) Findlay.....	1895-1900
Miss Mabel Stull, (Mrs. W. G. Herrold) Mansfield....	1900-1904
Mrs. L. B. Myers	1904-1908
Mrs. J. M. Prickett, Barberton, O.....	1908-1910
Mrs. Edna Gamertsfelder	1910-1911
Miss Sarah Meyers, (Mrs. E. F. Tittelbaugh) Marion...	1911-1914
Mrs. A. D. Wiest, Findlay.....	1914-1925

SECRETARY OF LITTLE HERALDS

Mrs. E. D. Paulin, Tiffin.....	1908-1925
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SECRETARIES YOUNG WOMEN'S MISSIONARY CIRCLES

Mrs. C. E. Lamale, Buffalo, N. Y.....	1912-1916
Mrs. W. L. Naumann, Akron.....	1916-1920
Mrs. W. H. Munk, Columbus.....	1920-1925

DISTRICT SECRETARIES, Y. W. M. C.

Cleveland, Mrs. J. S. Ewald, Cleveland, Ohio.....	1922-1924
Mrs. E. G. Frye, Cleveland, Ohio.....	1924-1925

Columbus, Miss Goldie Noggle, Circleville.....	1922-1925
Tiffin, Mrs. Clarence Hunsinger, Flat Rock. (Deceased) ..	1922-1925
Akron, Mrs. Ida Hoff, Akron, Ohio.....	1924-1925

ORGANIZERS

- 1896 Miss Mary Schultz, (Mrs. Umsted) Fremont.
to Mrs. J. H. Lamb.
- 1898 Miss Ada Moore, Cleveland.
Mrs. W. H. Bucks, Ashland.
- 1898 Mrs. W. H. Bucks, Ashland.
to Mrs. S. Cocklin, (deceased).
- 1901 Miss Mary Schultz, (Mrs. Umsted) Fremont.
Miss Ada Moore.
- 1901 Mrs. D. L. Caldwell, Findlay.
to Mrs. R. M. Nelson, Columbus.
- 1903 Mrs. W. D. Huddle, (deceased).
Mrs. U. L. Light, Barberton.
- 1903 Miss Nellie Good, (Mrs. Nellie Durbin) Blacklick, O.
and Mrs. B. E. Reams, Enid, Okla.
- 1904 Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Cleveland.
Mrs. John Hobson, New Springfield.
- 1904 Miss Nellie Good, (Mrs. Durbin) Blacklick, O.
and Mrs. B. E. Reams, Enid, Okla.
- 1905 Mrs. W. H. Bucks, Ashland.
Mrs. John Hobson, New Springfield.
- 1905 Miss Nellie Good, (Mrs. Durbin) Blacklick, O.
and Miss Martha Negele, Tiffin.
- 1906 Mrs. A. F. Beery, Ashland.
Mrs. W. H. Bucks, Ashland.
- 1906 Mrs. A. N. McCauley, Akron.
and Mrs. G. F. Spreng, Toledo.
- 1907 Miss Martha Negele, Tiffin.
Mrs. W. H. Bucks, Ashland.
- 1907 Mrs. A. N. McCauley, Akron.
and Mrs. A. F. Beery, Ashland.
- 1908 Mrs. E. D. Paulin, Tiffin.
Mrs. W. H. Bucks, Ashland.
- 1908 to 1917, organization carried on by members of the Executive Committee.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

- 1917 Mrs. H. M. Coyle, Cleveland District, Canton.
and Mrs. E. L. Weatherwax, Findlay District, Chicago.
- 1918 Mrs. L. W. Naus, Columbus District. Up. Sandusky.
- 1918 Mrs. A. N. McCauley, Cleveland District, Akron.
and Mrs. H. E. Williamson, Tiffin District, (deceased.)
- 1919 Miss Clara Mangold, Columbus District, Marion.
- 1919 Mrs. A. M. Rickel, Cleveland District, Cleveland Heights.
and Mrs. C. L. Allen, Tiffin District, Marion.
- 1920 Mrs. C. W. Ruhlman, Columbus District, Columbus.
- 1920 Mrs. H. M. Coyle, Cleveland District, Canton.
and Mrs. E. L. Fox, Tiffin District, Toledo.
- 1921 Mrs. C. W. Ruhlman, Columbus District, Columbus.
- 1921 Mrs. H. M. Coyle, Cleveland District, Canton.
and Mrs. O. D. Swank, Tiffin District, New York.
- 1922 Mrs. C. W. Ruhlman, Columbus District, Columbus.
- 1922 Mrs. H. M. Coyle, Cleveland District, Canton.
to Mrs. M. V. Overmyer, Tiffin District, Lindsey.
- 1924 Mrs. C. W. Ruhlman, Columbus District, Columbus.
- 1924 Mrs. H. M. Coyle, Akron District, Canton.
and Mrs. Charles Theuer, Cleveland District, Cleveland.
- 1925 Mrs. M. V. Overmyer, Toledo District, Lindsey.
Mrs. C. W. Ruhlman, Columbus District, Columbus.

OHIO BRANCH DELEGATES

To the General Convention:

- 1891 Mrs. Enos Spreng,
Mrs. J. H. Lamb.
- 1892 Mrs. S. J. Gamertsfelder, at Madison Avenue, Cleveland, O.
Mrs. W. H. Hammer.

To the Quadrennial:

- 1895 Mrs. W. H. Hammer, at Dayton, Ohio
Mrs. J. H. Lamb,
- 1899 Mrs. J. H. Lamb, at Howell, Mich
Mrs. A. N. McCauley,
Mrs. E. D. Paulin,
Mrs. A. D. Wiest.

- 1903 Mrs. H. Bennet, at Tiffin, Ohio
 Mrs. E. B. Crouse,
 Mrs. H. J. Heimberger,
 Mrs. W. H. Gamertsfelder,
 Mrs. W. S. Mills.
- 1907 Mrs. H. Bennett, at South Bend, Ind.
 Mrs. H. C. Berger,
 Mrs. W. S. Mills,
 Mrs. L. B. Myers,
 Mrs. W. L. Naumann.
- 1911 Mrs. H. C. Berger, at Holton, Kansas
 Mrs. Mabel Herrold,
 Mrs. John Hobson,
 Mrs. W. L. Naumann,
 Mrs. E. L. Weatherwax,
 Miss Estella Schultz.
- 1915 Mrs. John Hobson, at Marion, Ohio, Calvary Church
 Mrs. W. L. Naumann,
 Miss Estella Schultz,
 Mrs. E. L. Weatherwax.
- 1919 Mrs. C. R. Beerbower, at Monroe, Wis.
 Mrs. H. C. Berger,
 Miss Estella Schultz,
 Miss Ruth Spreng,
 Mrs. H. E. Williamson.

REPRESENTATIVE OF OHIO BRANCH TO THE CALLED
 MEETING IN CLEVELAND, OHIO.

December 8-12, 1922.

Miss Estella Schultz.

Others present: Mrs. John Hobson, Mrs. W. H. Munk.

DELEGATES FROM OHIO BRANCH EVANGELICAL
 CHURCH, TO THE QUADRENNIAL,
 YORK, PA., 1926:

Mrs. John Hobson, Mrs. Hulda Mathias, Miss Estella Schultz.

ROLL OF OFFICERS OF THE ERIE BRANCH OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

First officers, elected August 18, 1892.

President	Mrs. G. Gaehr
Vice President.....	Mrs. William Horn
Secretary.....	Mrs. H. Mattill
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mrs. Mary B. Gehlke
Treasurer.....	Mrs. C. Thomas
Secretary Mission Bands.....	Mrs. Seith

PRESIDENTS

Mrs. G. Gaehr	1892 to 1898
Mrs. Mary B. Gehlke.....	1898 to 1919
Mrs. C. R. Rall.....	1919 to 1924

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. William Horn	1892 to 1894
Mrs. C. F. Schoepflin	1894 to 1897
Mrs. Lydia Moeller	1897 to 1902
Mrs. C. Thomas	1902 to 1904
Mrs. Emma Kaechele	1904 to 1912
Mrs. A. Gottfried	1912 to 1919
Mrs. Mary B. Gehlke	1919 to 1920
Miss Cora E. Haller (Mrs. T. Gaehr).....	1920 to 1924

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. C. Hauser	1920 to 1924
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RECORDING SECRETARIES

Mrs. H. Mattill	1892 to 1901
Mrs. Elise Etjen	1901 to 1918
Mrs. John Finkbeiner	1918 to 1924

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

Mrs. Mary B. Gehlke	1892 to 1898
Mrs. Will Gehlke	1898 to 1906
Mrs. M. E. Heilman	1906 to 1917
Mrs. J. Finkbeiner	1917 to 1918
Mrs. J. G. Knippel	1918 to 1924

TREASURERS

Mrs. C. Thomas	1892 to 1902
Mrs. Lydia Moeller	1902 to 1922
Mrs. C. J. Theuer	1922 to 1924

SECRETARIES OF THE MISSION BANDS

Mrs. Seith	1892 to 1895
Lillie Aufderheide	1895 to 1898

Miss Katherine Eyerick	1898 to 1903
Mrs. M. E. Heilman	1903 to 1905
Miss Lillie Aufderheide	1905 to 1912
Mrs. Emma Niebaum	1912 to 1916
Miss Cora Haller	1916 to 1918
Miss Lydia Balli	1918 to 1924

SECRETARIES YOUNG WOMEN'S WORK

Miss Lizzie Yucker	1915 to 1918
Mrs. A. C. Batz	1918 to 1924

SECRETARIES LITTLE HERALDS

Mrs. Emma Sommer	1917 to 1919
Mrs. C. J. Holliger	1919 to 1924

SECRETARIES OF LITERATURE

Miss Hilda Gottfried	1915 to 1916
Miss Leah Haller	1916 to 1919
Mrs. A. A. Steva	1919 to 1924

OFFICERS OF THE UNITED BRANCH, 1900-1925

Presidents: Mrs. W. W. Sherrick, 1900-1903. Mrs. M. B. Templin, 1903-1916. Mrs. W. S. Mathias, 1916-1925.

Vice Presidents: Mrs. Lucy Sain, 1900-1903. Mrs. W. W. Sherrick, 1903-1904. Mrs. W. S. Harpster, 1904-1916. Mrs. M. B. Templin, 1916-1918. Mrs. Emma DeVaux, 1918-1925.

Recording Secretaries: Mrs. M. B. Templin, 1900-1903. Miss E. Dell Miesse, 1903-1905. Mrs. S. F. Thomas, 1905-1906. Mrs. H. A. Hensel, 1906-1909. Mrs. A. J. Hoyer, 1909-1911. Mrs. S. F. Thomas, 1911-1916. Mrs. Z. Miesse Dunlap, 1916-1917. Mrs. F. A. Firestone, 1917-1922. Mrs. George Caughman, 1922-1923. Mrs. F. A. Firestone, 1923-1925.

Corresponding Secretaries: Mrs. W. E. Bailey, 1900-1901. Mrs. N. W. Sager, 1901-1902. Mrs. W. E. Bailey, 1902-1903. Miss Ella Sager, 1903-1905. Mrs. Tracey Porter, 1905-1906. Mrs. H. D. Shultz, 1906-1920. Mrs. William Henry, 1920-1925.

Treasurers: Mrs. W. M. Shuster, 1900-1902. Mrs. Allie Johnson, 1902-1906. Mrs. Hansberger, 1906-1907. Mrs. F. P. Rodgers, 1907-1912. Mrs. W. W. Sherrick, 1912-1913. Mrs. J. T. Lowe, 1913-1915. Mrs. H. B. Masters, 1915-1925.

Y. P. M. S. Secretaries: Mrs. Inah E. H. Summers, 1901-1902. Mrs. Emma Cowan, 1902-1904. Miss Zipporah Miesse, 1904-1909. Mrs. P. E. Smoke, 1909-1916. Miss Lenore Harpster, 1916-1918. Mrs. N. W. Sager, 1918-1919. Mrs. William Staley, 1919-1920. Mrs. Blanche Herbst, 1920-1921. Mrs. Ella B. Ackley, 1921-1925.

Mission Band Secretaries: Mrs. W. S. Harpster, 1901-1902. Mrs. Mary Patterson, 1902-1904. Mrs. Angie Allen, 1904-1905. Mrs. W. W. Sherrick, 1905-1909. Mrs. P. E. Smoke, 1909-1917. Mrs. W. M. Davis, 1917-1918. Mrs. Ella B. Ackley, 1918-1920. Mrs. H. D. Shultz, 1920-1921. Mrs. W. M. Davis, 1921-1925.

Cradle and Home Department: Mrs. W. W. Sherrick, 1913-1914. Mrs. W. S. Mathias, 1915-1916. Mrs. Emma DeVaux, 1916-1917. Mrs. W. M. Davis, 1917-1918. Mrs. Ella B. Ackley, 1918-1920. Mrs. M. B. Templin, 1920-1925.

Secretary of Literature: Miss Agnes Muckley, 1907, who died during year.

Librarian: Mrs. H. M. Thompson, 1908-1915. Mrs. Z. Miesse Dunlap, 1915-1916. Mrs. F. Ellison, 1916-1919. Mrs. Viola Jacobs, 1919-1925.

Magazine Secretary: Miss Winona Osborne (Mrs. A. J. Foreman) 1912. Mrs. DeVaux, Secretary of Tithing, 1923-1925. Mrs. Davis, Secretary of Thank Offering, 1923-1925.

M. O. C. Secretaries: Mrs. W. S. Harpster, 1910-1911. Mrs. G. Tate, 1911-1916. Mrs. William Staley, 1916-1919. Mrs. Viola Jacobs, 1919-1925.

Organizers: Mrs. G. A. Smith, 1901-1902. Mrs. H. W. Espey and Mrs. Inah E. H. Summers, 1902-1905. Mrs. W. W. Sherrick, 1905-1909. Mrs. W. S. Harpster, 1909-1910. Mrs. W. W. Sherrick, 1910-1912. Mrs. W. E. Bailey, 1912-1914. Mrs. P. E. Smoke, 1914-1916. Mrs. Emma DeVaux, 1916-1917. Mrs. Emma DeVaux and Mrs. Z. Miesse Dunlap, 1917-1920. Mrs. N. W. Sager and Mrs. W. S. Harpster, 1920-1921. Mrs. W. O. Landaker and Mrs. W. S. Harpster, 1921-1925.

Branch Historian: Mrs. W. S. Harpster, 1918.

Woman's Board meetings were held in Ohio as follows: Baltimore, 1901. Canton Grace, 1903. Canton Trinity, 1910. Findlay Grace, 1915. Lancaster Maple Street Chapel, 1920.

OFFICERS OF THE OHIO BRANCH OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

1925-1926

President, Mrs. John Hobson, New Springfield.

1st Vice-President and Secretary T. O., Mrs. Hulda Mathias, Akron.
2nd Vice-President and Secretary Tithing, Mrs. H. L. Zachman, Canton.

3rd Vice-President and Secretary Life Enlistment, Mrs. D. L. Caldwell, Findlay.

4th Vice-President and Secretary Efficiency, Mrs. Ella Ackley, Akron.

Recording Secretary, Miss Emma Thomas, Cleveland.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. H. B. Masters, Akron.

Treasurer, Miss Estella Schultz, Fremont.

Secretary of Literature, Mrs. H. V. Summers, Columbus.

Secretary of Y. P. M. C., Mrs. F. A. Firestone, Canton.

Assistants: Cleveland, Mrs. E. G. Frye, Cleveland.

Canton, Mrs. Ida Hoff, Akron.

Columbus, Miss Goldie Noggle, Circleville.

Toledo, Mrs. Clarence Hunsinger, (deceased).

Secretary of Mission Bands, Mrs. A. D. Weist, Findlay.

Secretary of Little Heralds, Mrs. E. D. Paulin, Tiffin.

District Superintendents:

Canton, Mrs. H. M. Coyle, Canton.

Cleveland, Mrs. Ruth Theuer, Cleveland.

Columbus, Mrs. P. E. Smoke, Columbus.

Toledo, Mrs. M. V. Overmeyer, Lindsey.

1926-1927

President, Mrs. John Hobson, New Springfield.

1st Vice-President and Secretary T. O., Mrs. Hulda Mathias, Akron.

2nd Vice-President and Secretary Life Enlistment, Mrs. W. Herkner, Lorain.

3rd Vice-President and Secretary Efficiency, Mrs. Ella Ackley, Akron.

4th Vice-President and Secretary Tithing, Mrs. H. L. Zachman, Canton.

Recording Secretary, Miss Emma Thomas, Cleveland.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. H. B. Masters, Akron.

Treasurer, Miss Estella Schultz, Fremont.

Secretary of Literature, Mrs. H. V. Summers, Columbus.

Secretary of Y. P. M. C., Mrs. F. A. Firestone, Canton.

Assistants: Cleveland, Mrs. E. G. Frye, Cleveland.

Canton, Miss Hulda Walz, Ashland.

Columbus, Miss Goldie Noggle, Circleville.

Toledo, Mrs. C. S. Hunsinger, (deceased).

Miss Nona Black, appointed, Bellevue.

Secretary of Mission Bands, Miss Lydia Balli (Mrs. W. L. Seith) Cleveland.

Secretary of Little Heralds, Mrs. E. D. Paulin, Tiffin.

District Superintendents:

Cleveland, Mrs. Ruth Theuer, (resigned), Miss
Minnie Pferrer, appointed, Cleveland.
Canton, Mrs. H. M. Coyle, Canton.
Columbus, Mrs. P. E. Smoke, Columbus.
Toledo, Mrs. M. V. Overmyer, Lindsey.

CONVENTION ROLL

Organized—Pleasant Home Camp, West Salem, Ohio, 1890.

1891	Tiffin	1909	West Salem
1892	Akron, (Calvary)	1910	Fremont
1893	Flat Rock	1911	Marion, (Calvary)
1894	Marshallville	1912	Akron, (Calvary)
1895	Benton Ridge	1913	Greenspring
1896	Columbus	1914	Bucyrus
1897	Gibsonburg	1915	Cleveland, (Calvary)
1898	Mt. Cory	1916	Upper Sandusky
1899	Lindsey	1917	Lindsey
1900	Greenspring	1918	Findlay
1901	Cleveland (Oakdale)	1919	Mansfield
1902	Butler	1920	Bellevue
1903	Ashland	1921	Akron, (Calvary)
1904	Marion, (Calvary)	1922	Cleveland, (Calvary)
1905	Mt. Cory	1923	Marion, (Calvary)
1906	Bellevue	1924	Fremont
1907	Lindsey	1925	Kenmore
1908	Marshallville	1926	Marion, Oakland

GENERAL CONVENTIONS HELD IN OHIO

1st Meeting, Calvary Church, Perry Street, Cleveland, June 3-5, 1883.

2nd Meeting, Calvary Church, Cleveland, October 12-13, 1884.

First Annual Convention, Lindsey, September 25-27, 1885.

Third Annual Convention, Cleveland, Calvary Church, August 26-28, 1887.

Sixth Annual Convention, Oakdale St., Cleveland, September, 1890.

Reorganization—E. Madison Ave., Cleveland, February 6, 1892.

First Quadrennial, Dayton, August 30, 1895.

Third Quadrennial, Tiffin, 1903.

Sixth Quadrennial, Calvary Church, Marion, 1915.

Called Meeting, Merger of Evangelical Association and United Evangelical W. M. S., Cleveland, December 8-12, 1922.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE MONEY RAISED EACH
YEAR BY THE ERIE BRANCH OF THE WOMAN'S
MISSIONARY SOCIETY

1893.....\$	238.00	1910.....	2,173.00
1894.....	294.00	1911.....	2,586.00
1895.....	508.00	1912.....	2,588.00
1896.....	572.00	1913.....	2,387.00
1897.....	659.00	1914.....	2,878.00
1898.....	590.00	1915.....	3,331.00
1899.....	585.00	1916.....	3,100.00
1900.....	733.00	1917.....	3,438.00
1901.....	750.00	1918.....	3,599.00
1902.....	627.00	1919.....	5,478.00
1903.....	860.00	1920.....	6,433.00
1904.....	1,036.00	1921.....	7,579.00
1905.....	974.00	1922.....	8,934.00
1906.....	1,136.00	1923.....	9,141.00
1907.....	1,196.00	1924.....	8,475.00
1908.....	1,225.00		
1909.....	1,557.00	Grand Total....	\$85,660.00

GIFTS OF THE OHIO BRANCH

Showing yearly increase.

1891.....\$	104.68	1912.....	3,390.53	
1892.....	236.86	1913.....	4,913.41	
1893.....	375.63	1914.....	4,668.67	
1894.....	479.74	1915.....	5,232.11	
1895.....	563.18	1916.....	5,535.64	
1896.....	907.00	1917.....	7,797.94	
1897.....	838.78	1918.....	8,994.88	
1898.....	913.07	1919.....	11,592.09	
1899.....	948.20	1920.....	16,596.73	
1900.....	1,040.48	1921.....	18,220.79	
1901.....	1,242.87	1922.....	16,681.79	
1902.....	1,277.47	1923.....	19,208.42	
1903.....	1,282.96	1924.....	17,660.30	Former Ass'n.
1904.....	1,540.79			(Including
1905.....	1,433.07	1925.....	26,567.08	former Erie
1906.....	1,699.57			21 Societies)
1907.....	2,131.62	1926.....	34,614.53	
1908.....	2,290.93			(After merger
1909.....	2,657.54	1926—six. mo.	17,816.88	with former
1910.....	3,615.47			United)
1911.....	3,915.85	Total	\$248,996.57	

CONSTITUTION OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

ARTICLE I

Name

This Society shall be called The Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church and shall be auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The object of this Society shall be to engage the earnest, systematic co-operation of the women throughout the Church in aiding the missionary enterprises of the Evangelical Church by extra funds, efforts and prayers, in the dissemination of missionary intelligence, and the cultivation of a missionary spirit in the family and the church.

ARTICLE III

Local Auxiliaries

There shall be Auxiliary Societies organized throughout the Church, and all women who pay into their treasuries an optional sum, and who accept this constitution, shall be members of this Society.

ARTICLE IV

Conference Branches

The Auxiliaries of this Society within the bounds of each Annual Conference shall be organized into Conference Branches.

ARTICLE V

Membership

The General Woman's Missionary Society shall consist of the officers of the Society and the delegates of the Conference Branches.

ARTICLE VI

Quadrennial Meeting

The General Woman's Missionary Society shall hold Quadrennial Meetings preceding the last meeting of the Board of Missions in the Quadrennium for the transaction of business and election of officers.

ARTICLE VII

Officers

(a) The officers of the General Woman's Missionary Society shall be a president, four vice-presidents, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, secretary of Young People's Missionary Circles, secretary of Mission Bands, secretary of Little Heralds, the Editor, and the Publisher of our Woman's Missionary Society Literature.

(b) The officers shall be elected by ballot at the Quadrennial Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Delegates to Quadrennial

The Delegates to the Quadrennial shall be elected at the annual meeting of the respective Branches, preceding the Quadrennial Meeting of the General Society. Each Branch shall be entitled to one delegate for every fifteen auxiliaries; provided there shall not be more than three delegates from any one Branch, and until such time as each Branch organization shall have the required number of auxiliaries entitling it to representation, said Branch shall be allowed one delegate. One of the delegates from each Branch shall be elected from among its officers.

ARTICLE IX

Woman's Board

The Woman's Board shall consist of the officers of the General Woman's Missionary Society and the delegates elected from the Branches. The officers of the General Society shall be the officers of the Board. Should a vacancy occur among the general officers, the Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint a successor.

ARTICLE X

Executive Committee

The officers of the Woman's Board shall have power to elect an Executive Committee of seven of its members, four of whom shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Committee shall, in the interim of the annual meeting of the Woman's Board, transact the business of the Society.

ARTICLE XI

Grouping of Conference Branch Representation

The Conference Branches shall be divided into groups of three—one of the officers of the first named Branch in the group to be the representative at the annual meeting of the Woman's Board the first year of the quadrennium, an officer of the second named Branch of the group the second year of the quadrennium, an officer of the third named Branch in the group the third year of the quadrennium, each representative to be the medium of communication between the Woman's Board and the officers of the Branches constituting the group to which she belongs.

ARTICLE XII

Conference Branch

A Conference Branch shall consist of the officers of the Branch and one or two delegates from each auxiliary Woman's Missionary Society, as the Branch may determine; one delegate from each Young People's Missionary Circle, and one adult representative from each Mission Band or Little Heralds.

ARTICLE XIII

The Woman's Missionary Society at its Quadrennial Meeting shall adopt by-laws for the conduct of its business, and provide constitutions and by-laws for the Conference Branches, local Auxiliaries, Young People's Missionary Circles, Mission Bands, Little Heralds. There shall be nothing in said constitutions and by-laws to conflict with this constitution or the constitution of the Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church.

ARTICLE XIV

Complimentary Membership

Any person paying ten dollars into the general treasury of the Woman's Missionary Society may become a Life Member, and by the payment of twenty-five dollars into the general treasury, an Honorary Member.

ARTICLE XV

Memorial Roll

The names of deceased friends and members may be placed on the Memorial Roll at Literature Headquarters, by the payment of ten dollars into the general treasury of the Woman's Missionary Society.

ARTICLE XVI

(a) The Woman's Board shall hold annual meetings, make appropriations, and transact necessary business, also submit a full report of its doings to the Board of Missions.

(b) The Executive Committee of the Woman's Board shall arrange for the time, place and program of the Woman's Missionary Society.

ARTICLE XVII

The fiscal year of the Woman's Missionary Society shall be from January first to December thirty-first.

ARTICLE XVIII

Amendments

This Constitution can be changed by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any quadrennial meeting of the Society, with the ratification of the General Board of Missions of the Evangelical Church.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Duties of Officers

The President shall preside at all business meetings of the Society, and of the Woman's Board, and appoint all committees not otherwise ordered.

ARTICLE II

(a) In the absence of the President, a Vice-President, in the order of succession, shall assume the duties of the President.

(b) The specific duties of the respective Vice-Presidents shall be defined by the Executive Committee immediately after the quadrennial convention.

ARTICLE III

(a) The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the Proceedings of the Society and of the Proceedings of the Woman's Board, which proceedings shall be presented annually to the Board of Missions of the Evangelical Church for approval.

(b) She shall give notice of the meetings of the Woman's Board, as well as of the meetings of the Society, in the Church papers.

ARTICLE IV

The Corresponding Secretary shall keep a list of the Auxiliaries of this Society, communicate with the Corresponding Secretaries of the Branches and with the Auxiliaries outside of Branches; give a full report of the condition of the Society at the Annual Meeting of the Woman's Board.

ARTICLE V

The Treasurer shall receive all funds of the Society and remit the same according to appropriations, and furnish audited report annually.

ARTICLE VI

The Secretary of Young People's Missionary Circles, the Secretary of Mission Bands, and the Secretary of Little Heralds, shall correspond with each respective Branch Secretary and give a report of the work at the Annual Meeting of the Woman's Board.

ARTICLE VII

Committee on Literature

The Board shall elect two members who, together with the Editor and the Publisher of Literature, shall constitute the Committee on Publication and Literature Supplies.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFERENCE BRANCH

ARTICLE I

Name

This organization shall be called Ohio Conference Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church.

ARTICLE II

Object

The object of the Branch is to aid the Woman's Missionary Society in uniting and engaging the efforts of the women in behalf of the missionary work of the Evangelical Church.

ARTICLE III

Members

The members of the Branch shall consist of its officers, one or two delegates from each auxiliary Woman's Missionary Society, as the Branch may determine; one delegate from each Young People's Missionary Circle and one adult representative from each Mission Band or Little Herald. All delegates shall be members of the Evangelical Church.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

The officers of the Branch shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary of Young People's Missionary Circles, Secretary of Mission Bands, and Secretary of Little Heralds.

ARTICLE V

(a) Each Branch shall hold an annual meeting to elect officers and to transact any business pertaining to its work.

(b) Every fourth year the Branch shall elect delegates to the Quadrennial Meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society. Each Branch shall be entitled to one delegate for every fifteen auxiliaries, provided there shall not be more than three delegates from any one Branch, and until such time as each Branch organization shall have the required number of auxiliaries, entitling it to representation, said Branch shall be allowed one delegate. One of the delegates from each Branch shall be elected from among its officers.

ARTICLE VI

Executive Committee

The officers of the Branch shall elect an Executive Committee from among its number to supervise its work in the interim of the annual Branch meetings. It shall also be the duty of this committee to arrange the program of the annual meeting and fill any vacancies which may occur.

ARTICLE VII

The Fiscal Year of the Woman's Missionary Society shall be from January first to December thirty-first.

BY-LAWS

Duties of Officers

ARTICLE I

The President shall preside at all business meetings of the Branch and of the Executive Committee and appoint all committees not otherwise ordered.

ARTICLE II

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President and such other duties as the executive committee of the Branch may assign to her.

ARTICLE III

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Branch and of the Executive Committee, and shall give due notice of the meetings of the same to the auxiliaries and Church papers.

ARTICLE IV

(a) It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to communicate with each Auxiliary and with the General Corresponding Secretary, and give a general and statistical report at the annual meeting of the Branch.

(b) She shall send the General Corresponding Secretary a copy of each report at the close of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE V

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all funds of the Branch and after the accounts have been audited by a competent accountant, remit said funds to the General Treasurer at the close of the fiscal year, and also give a report at the annual meeting of the Branch.

ARTICLE VI

(a) The Secretary of Young People's Missionary Circles shall agitate the "Spend-a-day" Plan, and Mission Study, in every congregation in the Conference, and shall organize Young People's Missionary Circles wherever possible.

(b) She shall give a General and Statistical report at the Annual Meeting of the Branch, and send the General Secretary of Young People's Circles a copy of each at the close of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII

The Secretary of Mission Bands shall correspond with each local Leader of Mission Band within the Conference Branch, also with the General Secretary of Mission Bands and give a general and statistical report at the Annual Meeting of the Branch, and send a copy of each to the General Secretary at the close of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE VIII

The Secretary of Little Heralds shall correspond with each local Secretary of Little Heralds within the Conference Branch, also with the General Secretary of Little Heralds, and give a general and statistical report at the Annual Meeting of the Branch and send a copy of each to the General Secretary at the close of the fiscal year.

THE CONSTITUTION OF AUXILIARIES

ARTICLE I

Name

This auxiliary shall be known as Woman's Missionary Society auxiliary to the Conference Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church. Local Woman's Missionary Societies not located within the bounds of Conference Branch organizations are auxiliary to the General Woman's Missionary Society.

ARTICLE II

Object

The object of this Auxiliary shall be the cultivation of a true missionary spirit among its members, and the collection of extra funds for missionary purposes in the Evangelical Church.

ARTICLE III

Members

Any woman agreeing to pay an optional sum monthly into the treasury and accepting this constitution shall be a member of this Auxiliary. Any man paying an optional sum monthly may become an associate member.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

(a) The Auxiliary shall hold monthly meetings for prayer and business and shall carry out the program provided by the Woman's Board.

(b) The Auxiliary shall hold public meetings, at which time earnest efforts should be made to increase missionary intelligence and zeal. An offering shall also be received.

ARTICLE V

Officers

(a) The officers of the Auxiliary shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Advisor of Young People's Missionary Circle, Leader of Mission Band and Secretary of Little Heralds, who shall be elected annually by ballot, from its members in the month of December. If advisable, they shall be members of the Evangelical Church, but in all cases the President shall be a member. The officers shall constitute an Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI

Appropriations

(a) The Auxiliary shall appropriate money to the following funds: General Treasury of the Woman's Missionary Society, Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Conference Missionary Society and such special funds as may be authorized by the General Woman's Missionary Society.

(b) One-third of the regular monthly offerings shall flow into the General Treasury, the remaining two-thirds may be appropriated to other funds provided for in the foregoing paragraph.

(c) Life and Honorary Membership fees, receipts from Memorial Roll and any monies received undesignated shall flow into the General Treasury of the Woman's Missionary Society.

(d) All monies contributed for work in Foreign fields, Thank-offering money, and all monies contributed for scholarships or native workers in the Foreign fields shall flow into the Foreign Mission Fund.

(e) All monies contributed for the Mountaineer work, the Italian work, and the Immigrant work, shall flow into the Home Missions Fund.

(f) All monies contributed for the Conference Missionary Society treasury shall flow through the Branch treasury into the Conference Missionary Society fund.

(g) Monies received for special funds, authorized by the Woman's Board, such as the Self Denial and Day of Prayer offerings, Building funds for the fields in which the Society is operating, and Faith Fund, shall flow into these respective funds.

(h) An expense fund apart from aforesaid funds shall be maintained in each local Woman's Missionary Society, to be known as the Local Contingent Fund, from which fund shall be paid the expenses of the Local Auxiliary and of the Conference Branch Woman's Missionary Society.

ARTICLE VII

By-Laws

The Auxiliary may adopt by-laws for the conduct of its business provided the same do not conflict with this Constitution or with that of the Conference Branch Society.

ARTICLE VIII

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Auxiliary shall begin January first and close December thirty-first.

BY-LAWS

Duties of Officers

Changes made at Quadrennial at York, 1926.

Recommend changing Article VI to read as follows:

ARTICLE VI

The Advisor of the Young People's Missionary Circle, the Leader of the Mission Band, and the Secretary of the Little Heralds shall have general supervision of all matters pertaining to their respective Departments and should there be no organization endeavor to effect one.

CONSTITUTION OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY CIRCLE

Recommend changing Articles V, VI, and VII to read as follows:

ARTICLE V

Officers

The words Secretary of Young People's Missionary Circle be changed to Advisor of the Young People's Missionary Circle.

ARTICLE VI

Offerings

Add—"and Conference Missionary Society."

ARTICLE VII

Report and Delegate

Section (a)—Change the words June first to January first.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSION BAND

Recommend changing Articles IV, V and VI as follows:

In Articles IV, V, and VI change the word Secretary to Leader, but the words Recording Secretary in Article V shall not be changed.

ARTICLE V

Section (a)—Change the word May to December.

LITTLE HERALD PLAN

1. A Little Herald Secretary should be appointed by the local Woman's Missionary Society or Pastor in every congregation, who shall endeavor to enroll all the children under five years of age on the Little Herald roll.

3. The Little Herald Roll is auxiliary to the Woman's Missionary Society. At the age of five years the Little Herald is promoted to the Mission Band Department.

4. Little Herald Rally Day shall be held annually, at which time the Cradle Boxes are opened and the Birthday offerings and all monies contributed by the Little Heralds, recorded and sent to the Branch Secretary of Little Heralds.

STANDARD OF EFFICIENCY

1	Membership:		
	Net gain in Membership	5 points	
	Membership and Periodical Campaign	5 points	10 points
2	Average attendance:		
	One-half the active members present at monthly meetings		10 points
3	Thank-offering:		
	Thank-offering observed	5 points	
	Thank-offering observed with public meeting		10 points
4	Self-Denial Week observed	5 points	
	Day of Prayer observed	5 points	10 points
5	Tithing:		
	One-half the members Tithers		10 points
6	Total amount of money raised:		
	Three dollars or more per member		10 points
7	EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY WORLD or <i>Missionsbote</i> :		
	Subscriptions equal to two-thirds of the membership		10 points
8	Use of Textbooks		10 points
9	Use of Quarterly Leaflet Envelopes	5 points	
	Leaflet Reading Contest	5 points	10 points
10	Missionary Oratorical Contest or Missionary play..		10 points
11	Missionary Books (other than current textbooks)		
	read by one-fourth of the members		10 points
12	Having a Young People's Missionary Circle		10 points
13	Having a Mission Band		10 points
14	Having a Little Herald Department		10 points
15	Holding Executive Meetings at least four times a year		10 points

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Hudson, Margaret S.
History of the Ohio
branch of the Woman's
missionary society of
the Evangelical Church.

DATE DUE	BORROWER'S NAME

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